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CEMA Heads of Government To Meet in Bulgaria

LD3012025489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0240 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Moscow, 30 Dec (TASS)—It has been announced here that the 45th sitting of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is to open on 9 January, 1990, in Sofia, the capital of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Under the accord which has been reached, the session is to be held at the level of heads of government of the CEMA member countries.

UN Magazine Interviews Vladimir Petrovskiy

LD3001145990 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2330 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] New York, 3 Jan (TASS)—An interview with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy has been published in the magazine DISARMAMENT. It is devoted to problems of the implementation of the principles of new thinking as applied to international affairs, the search for ways to further strengthen international security, and the important tasks confronting the United Nations in the new year. The magazine is published by the UN Secretariat's Department for Disarmament Affairs within the framework of the worldwide campaign for disarmament.

We are interested in seeing that the approach toward ensuring international security is multilateral, V. Petrovskiy declared. This means that all UN bodies must be fully mobilized. There is a vital need to examine all issues: disarmament, peaceful settlement of disputes, environmental protection, and many others.

Only the collective will of states is capable of setting in motion the mechanisms of international cooperation and giving effect to the principles enshrined in the UN charter, he pointed out. To this end, it is necessary that all states and groups of states cooperate at the UN.

Foreign Ministry's Perfilyev Reviews Changes

LD0101143190 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Perfilyev remarks recorded in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] So the year 1989 is out. An eventful year that changed the world greatly. Soviet Foreign Ministry representatives have been calling the attention of newsmen, both Soviet and foreign, to this country's attitude toward the changes on the world scene. What pleased Vadim Perfilyev of the Foreign Ministry most of all, and what least of all last year?

[Begin Perfilyev recording] What pleased me most of all was the continued Soviet-American summit dialogue, and what was very upsetting was the United States' armed invasion of Panama. The news of the invasion is terrifying, that force might take on key significance in foreign policy again, but despite everything it was a good year. [end recording]

Vadim Perfilyev pointed out that the Foreign Ministry saw its key task in creating as favorable international conditions for perestroyka as possible. He said the Foreign Ministry studied and adopted the experience of other nations that they had gained to improve society in a socialist manner. There were remarkable changes in the socialist countries, and this is the natural result of a stage of development that brought these nations to understand that they need changes. It's essential for every nation to enjoy the right to self-determination.

The United States invaded Panama, and Israel committed another act of aggression against Lebanon at the end of last year. Does Vadim Perfilyev believe the world will enjoy more safety this year?

[Begin Perfilyev recording] Significantly, there is a growing understanding that all nations must press harder for political solutions. The European process has stimulated hope for a second Helsinki and reduction in armed forces and armaments in Europe. The new vision of the role of the United Nations as an instrument to reach agreement is a turning point. I hope Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit with President George Bush to sign an agreement to cut by half strategic nuclear weapons will start off a period when a trend for cooperation and not confrontation gains momentum around the world. [end recording]

Weekly 'Observers Roundtable' Assesses 1989

LD3112155589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 31 Dec 89

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Vitaliy Yakovlevich Chukseyev, chief foreign news editor of TASS and member of the TASS collegium; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin and Vladimir Georgiyevich Pasko, All-Union Radio commentators]

[Excerpts] [Pasko] Hello, comrades. Only a few hours remain until the New Year, so this is the best possible time to try to single out the main features of the situation in which we are entering. [passage omitted]

[Levin] We have every reason to speak of revolutions in the socialist states of Eastern Europe, revolutions of enormous importance not just for those countries, not just for the world of socialism, but literally for the whole world. If we analyze the basis of all these events and calculate their common denominator, we'll find that it is a rejection of the Stalinist administrative command system and the decisive break with it.

It has been a year of rebirth of socialism. Unfortunately, there have been elements which cause alarm, elements which indicate that some people are trying to redirect the popular indignation that has been displayed against the past and against leaders who have disgraced themselves in all areas and aim it against the Communist Parties. Here there must be a very clear distinction. I can say this from my own experience, from my recent conversations in the German Democratic Republic. Even in opposition, people are saying that you can't extend the sins of the leaders to the whole party. But, I repeat, there are those who would very much like to steer the movement into just that channel, and I must say that I heard with surprise and indignation of the desecration of the memorial to Soviet soldiers in Treptower Park. [passage omitted]

[Chukseyev] I'd like to continue your line of thought, taking Romania as an example. The political situation there is now extremely complex. And in this connection, one cannot pass over in silence reports from Bucharest that anti-communist and anti-socialist demonstrations have been seen there in recent days. Last week, the word socialist disappeared from the state's name and the coat of arms from its flag. Why? In my view, there are two main reasons. First, after many years of dictatorship in that country, conditions for political pluralism have arisen, for the free expression of will, for a multi-party system, and, in general, this picture also is typical of the neighboring countries. Second, in the minds of many Romanians, the words socialism and communism are associated with the former regime, which has done enormous damage and discredited the group which corrupted these concepts. [passage omitted]

[Pasko] Of course, what is happening here and in Eastern Europe is not the collapse of socialism. It is the collapse of the model of socialism that has been defined as the Stalinist administrative command model, the model that has begun to hold back the advance and progress of society. [passage omitted]

[Chukseyev] The U.S. aggression in Panama is an obvious relapse into the policy of acting from strength, which surely should no longer have a place in international relations. In my view, this is the main event casting a shadow over the end of the departing year. You will remember, no doubt, that when they began their operation against Panama, the Pentagon and White house said they had two main objectives: to restore democracy there and to capture General Noriega. Neither argument holds water, as they say in the United States. And indeed, to restore democracy by armed force is nonsense; and the arrest of one man—however difficult his relations with the Americans may have been in the past—cannot justify the murder of hundreds of people, which is just what has happened. [passage omitted]

[Pasko] The temptation to solve one's problems at the expense of others, to finish off the weak, to leave morality out of politics, to use arms where matters can be settled by political means—all this is unfortunately present. Nonetheless, we can say that the world is moving in the direction of democratization. [passage omitted] Summing up the old year, we could probably define its most characteristic trait as follows: movement toward a safer and more humane development. One must suppose that this trend, which largely may have been conditioned by our perestroyka and by the new thinking in foreign policy, will also characterize the year to come. [passage omitted]

TASS Analyst Sees 1989 as 'Year of Europe'

LD2812182789 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—By TASS news analyst Gennadiy Petrov:

The Old World is ushering in the new year 1990, being renewed by important political events, which give the reason for describing the year 1989 as the Year of Europe.

While EEC countries, overcoming considerable difficulties, were advancing towards integration, the creation of a single market in 1992, impressive changes aimed at the renewal of socialism and imparting a humane character to it took place in the Soviet Union and East European countries.

The striving for the creation of a common European home is manifest in Eastern and Western Europe. A summit conference on security and cooperation in Europe, Helsinki-2 proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev, is called upon to become an important stage in its construction.

The forum offers a good opportunity to impart fresh impetus to the process of CSCE, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, West German deputy chancellor and minister of foreign affairs, said in an interview to DPA news agency.

The Year of Europe was started in January by the signing of the final document of the Vienna meeting of countries participating in CSCE.

Later there were visits of the Soviet leader to Great Britain, FRG, France and Finland. His visits to Italy and to the Vatican, as well as the meeting with U.S. President George Bush off Malta, during which considerable attention was given to European affairs, confirmed that the situation in Europe is changing radically for the better. Relapses to the Cold War became an anachronism.

But it would be too early to paint Europe's future in rosy colours. The burden of problems Europeans inherited from the recent past is still heavy. Some stereotypes of thinking of the times of the Iron Curtain still persist. Mutual distrust has not been overcome. And finaly, two powerful military political alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, are still pitted against each other in Europe.

A reliable system of security cannot be formed in Europe without taking into consideration the coexistence of two sovereign German states and the inviolability of post-war frontiers. It should be remembered that this reality ensured for Europeans 45 years of peaceful life.

Who could imagine just a year ago the changes that would take place in Europe within 12 months as a result of the assertion of the principles of new political thinking in international affairs. It is not easier to predict how the old world will look in the near future. One thing is clear that the outlines of a united Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals are becoming ever clearer.

Analyst Criticizes Western Trade Restrictions

LD2812184189 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Albert Balebanov:

Will the new year of 1990 be a turning point in speeding the pace of economic cooperation between the East and the West? The business communities of both sides would like very much to answer this question in the positive. But are the chances that this turn will take place real?

It would seem that a sound base has already been laid down for turning economic interaction into an irreversible and mutually beneficial process: A favourable international political climate, which has been reinforced by the results of Soviet-U.S. summit talks in Malta and the sweeping restructuring that affected all areas of life in socialist countries, including the economy, etc.

In practice, however, this cooperation runs up against serious difficulties. These are, above all, discriminating restrictions imposed by the West, mainly the United States, on unimpeded trade and economic links with the East. The Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] regulations ban the export of high technology and modern equipment to the socialist countries. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, still in force in the United States, holds up the development of trade with the Soviet Union by denying it most favoured nation trade status.

It is symptomatic that these restrictions are preserved despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Western countries view them as anachronisms. Everything rests on the U.S. position, and although Washington promises to revise them, it is in no hurry to do it.

Nevertheless, interested companies are boldly pushing toward clearing up artificial hurdles because they believe in the success of their undertakings and hope for mutual benefit. Businessmen do not take risks without weighing all the pros and cons. The U.S. firm Control Data has decided to supply high resolution computers to the USSR to ensure the safety of nuclear reactors at nuclear power stations. The success of its efforts will be a test of the sincerity of the U.S. Administration, which states its readiness to move toward simplifying Cocom regulations.

West Europeans feel that many of the Cocom regulations are outdated in a world of sweeping transformations. They have more realistic positions about issues of trade and economic links with the USSR and other socialist countries. Hence their determination to develop cooperation on a large scale.

This is exemplified by the numerous agreements on economic cooperation signed by the USSR and Italy during the recent visit to that country of Mikhail Gorbachev. The readiness of the Italian motor giant Fiat to set up a joint automotive enterprise in Yelabuga refutes excuses used by some U.S. firms about the shortage of hard currency and the non-convertibility of the rouble.

On the other hand, West Europeans' active business relationships with socialist countries demonstrate their intention not to let Americans or Japanese tap the lucrative sales market that is opening in the East.

Time will tell. However, this interim period in cooperation must not be dragged out. A short interim period is in the interests of both the East and the West and is in line with the dialectics of the present-day stage in the development of international relations.

United States & Canada

U.S. 'Double Standards' in Panama Invasion Hit

PM0201200090 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Jan 90 First Edition p 5

[Yu. Subbotin article: "Double Standards, or Marks for Behavior Again"]

[Excerpts] History repeats itself. The subjects are very similar. Only the casting of the actors is rather different...

Nine years ago, America was not greeting its most cheerful Christmas. The mood at the festive tables with the traditional turkey and apple pie was darkened by the knowledge that 52 compatriots who were staffers at the U.S. Embassy which had been seized by the "guardians of the Islamic revolution" were still languishing as hostages in distant Iran. For that reason, everywhere ribbons of a disturbing yellow color were added to the Christmas decorations, symbolizing, for some reason, hope for the speedy release of the prisoners.

And also, there was righteous wrath. There were calls to cruelly punish the barbarians who violate the fundamental norms of international law...

September 1983. The South Korean airliner tragedy had just happened. Excited crowds, ready for anything, took to the streets in Washington, brandishing placards among which "Russians are murderers" was by no means the most threatening. [passage omitted]

But then in summer 1988, as if according to the laws of some classical drama, the United States found itself in a similar situation. The only difference being that the Iranian passenger plane, shot down by a U.S. missile, had not invaded U.S. airspace. So what then? Where was the fever of denunciation? Where were the angry speeches about barbarians and their innocent victims? Instead, there was inaudible muttering about defects in the most sophisticated electronic equipment.

And before that there was Grenada, which was trampled on, in passing, by the boots of the American GI. And the isolated voices of protest were drowned in the harmonious choir of victors praising the triumph of democracy and Americanism.

Now it is Panama's turn. Where is the general indignation at the violation of the inviolability of a foreign ambassador's residence, furthermore on the territory of a foreign country? Now, after the fact, the U.S. President says that that should not have happened. Well, one has to agree with that. But perhaps other diplomatic missions should not be blockaded either, and perhaps one should not, after all, invade the territory of a sovereign state, weapons in hand, at all.

But alas, that is not what the vast majority of Americans think. According to the results of a poll carried out by ABC television, 80% of U.S. inhabitants support the military invasion of Panama "with the aim of restoring democracy." A similar position is held by the "people's choice"—the members of the U.S. Congress, the majority of whom it was not even considered necessary to inform of the start of the invasion. And this is the very same congress that spent so much time discussing and condemning the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and fighting for the abused rights of Soviet citizens! R. Michel, leader of the Republican minority in the House of Representatives, expressed satisfaction at the way the operation was carried out in Panama, "professionally, with minimal losses."

Are we not sometimes in too much of a hurry to pass off wishes as reality, when we declare that all the stereotypes of the past have been thrown onto the garbage heap of history? The consciousness is a highly conservative thing, and is hardest of all to subject to perestroyka. American consciousness is no exception. Having lived among Americans for some years, I have great sympathy for that remarkable people. But there is one trait in American thinking that I do not like, and never will. It is the double standards, often with the addition of a good dose of hypocrisy. While fiercely condemning other people's actions, over there they readily forgive themselves and their allies for similar acts. And this is done in such an inspired fashion that it is sometimes hard to distinguish between skilled acting and sincere emotion.

Americans have another weakness, too: awarding the whole world marks for behavior. And we offer our back in readiness for the kind uncle across the ocean to slap it condescendingly, having replaced his aggressiveness with geniality, since we have stopped being aggressive.

I vote with both hands for the further improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations. But let us call things by their names, as is done in the Soviet Government statement on the U.S. invasion of Panama. Let us not get euphoric, rush things, and adapt the facts to make pretty patterns. We did that for too long. And the results are well known.

Miners Strike Committee Delegation To Visit U.S.

LD2812201789 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov:

A delegation from the Soviet miners' strike committees leaves for the United States on December 29 at the invitation of U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Mattlock. Members of the delegation represent all the main coal mining regions of the Soviet Union where a series of major strikes was staged in the summer and autumn of this year.

"As far as I know," Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Trade Union Headquarters Gennadiy Yanayev told TASS, "the leadership of the AFL-CIO [American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations] attaches great importance to this trip".

"During talks with Soviet miners, the AFL-CIO leaders are planning to define the requirements of the newly-forming Soviet trade unions and test the limits of glasnost (openness), according to Lane Kirkland, the AFL-CIO chief.

The Soviet trade union leader said that the AFL-CIO leadership was evidently viewing the visiting group of miners as an alternative to the present Soviet trade unions. The limits of glasnost evidently implied that someone in the Soviet Union would be afraid to let members of the miners strike committees leave the Soviet Union.

Yanayev stressed that, contrary to expectations abroad, the Soviet trade unions rendered considerable assistance to the delegation in the preparations and in dealing with formalities for the trip. They view this assistance as absolutely normal. "None of us is going to panic because the group includes activists of an acute labour dispute", he said.

Many of the strike committee leaders are now becoming heads of the renewed trade union structures in the course of the election campaign in the Soviet Union, Yanayev pointed out. "We shall be pleased if during the trip the delegates are able to learn something useful for themselves from the experience amassed by the U.S. trade union movement, including in the field of labour legislation and labour dispute settlement," he said.

The visit of Soviet miners to the United States will last about a month. According to the programme compiled by the United States Information Agency (USIA), Soviet miners will be able to get familiarized with the U.S. trade union movement, meet their American counterparts and satisfy their occupational interests.

Canada's Mulroney Meets Ukrainian Party Boss

90UN0456A Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Nov 89 p 1

[RATAU report: "Meeting in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] On 23 November V.A. Ivashko, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, met with Canadian Prime Minister Martin Brian Mulroney, who is in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

In the course of the discussion both parties noted the importance of the development of Ukrainian-Canadian ties in the trade and economic, science and technology, and cultural spheres and positively evaluated the new practical steps being taken in this direction. Thus a conference of representatives of Canada's business circles and foreign economic relations specialists of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] in Kiev and an exhibition of UKrainian export commodities in Edmonton have been held this year. Contacts of the Ukrainian and Canadian public are increasing. Tourist ties are developing. Assistance will be given to the preparations for the celebration in 1991 of the centenary of the first Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

The partners supported the idea of opening a Canadian consulate general in Kiev and a Soviet consulate general in Canada, which would represent the interests of the Ukrainian SSR also.

V.A. Ivashko emphasized that the extension of Soviet-Canadian cooperation, new impetus to which was being imparted by Prime Minister M.B. Mulroney's present visit, would contribute to a further extension of the ties of the Soviet Ukraine and Canada. The Ukrainian SSR, he said, will participate actively in realization of the agreement on cooperation between the USSR union republics and the Canadian provinces.

The first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party acquainted the prime minister with the progress of perestroyka in the republic. It was pointed out that at the present time the Ukrainian Communist Party and the organs of state power are implementing important measures aimed at economic recovery and satisfaction of the socioeconomic and national-cultural requirements and requests of the population. Importance in the accomplishment of these tasks will be attached to the republic's transition to economic independence and self-management. The policy of democratization of social life and the enlistment in constructive cooperation of the amateur formations and movements adhering to socialist positions is being pursued consistently.

To M.B. Mulroney's question concerning the attitude toward the Greek-Catholic Eastern Rite Church, V.A. Ivashko replied that communists are atheists, as is known, but on the question of religious belief they proceed from the proposition concerning freedom of belief and the right of the individual to exercise his religious needs. He emphasized: We are building a state based on the rule of law; and the interests of believers must be observed. The first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee also described the measures being adopted in connection with the imparting constitutionally to the Ukrainian language of official status and the preparations for the upcoming elections of people's deputies of the Ukrainian SSR and the local soviets.

M.B. Mulroney noted with satisfaction that his meeting and discussion with M.S. Gorbachev during the present visit had been productive. The visitor declared that Canadians support the restructuring processes in our country and wished the Ukrainian people success in the achievement of the set goal.

The following took part in the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of mutual interest and candor: on the Soviet side, V.G. Urchukin, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, Ukrainian SSR Foreign Minister V.A. Kravets, A.V. Merkulov, head of a department of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, and V.A. Pereloma, aide to the first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central

Committee; on the Canadian side, Foreign Minister J. Clark, Deputy Foreign Minister G. Taylor, and W. Turner, Canadian ambassador in the USSR. V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and A.A. Rodionov, USSR ambassador in Canada, who are accompanying Canadian Prime Minister M.B. Mulroney on his tour of the country, took part in the meeting also.

Meets Ukraine Premier Masol

90UN0456B Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Nov 89 p 1

[RATAU report: "The Ukraine-Canada: Cooperation Is Strengthening"]

[Text] Kiev, 23 November—A meeting was held here today in the Mariinskiy Palace between V.A. Masol, member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers, and Canadian Prime Minister M.B. Mulroney.

It was observed in the course of the friendly meeting that there are long-standing ties between the Ukraine and Canada. A large group of persons of Ukrainian extraction, who are displaying a natural interest in their ethnic roots, lives in Canada. With representatives of this country's business circles the "Ukraine-Canada: Joint Ventures" conference was held in Kiev recently. Its central event was the signing of a protocol on intentions in the sphere of the trade and economic cooperation of the UkSSR and the province of Ontario.

M.B. Mulroney emphasized that during the present visit to the USSR, which he termed very positive, and the meetings and discussions with M.S. Gorbachev, N.I. Ryzhkov and E.A. Shevardnadze new steps had been taken en route to a strengthening of mutually profitable trade and economic, Science and Technology, and other relations. This included, for example, the creation of joint ventures in the Soviet Union, in the Ukraine included.

V.A. Masol familiarized the visitor with the state of affairs in the republic's economy, which is developing in the country's single national economic complex. Particular attention was paid to questions of the development of agricultural production, where there are still many harvest losses owing to the absence of the proper material-technical facilities. Cooperation with Canadian business circles in the field of the reequipment of the republic's manufacturing and light industry and the saturation of its agrarian sector with modern agricultural machinery would seem important in this connection. The chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers responded to questions by the head of the Canadian Government concerning reform of the electoral system, the development of forms of ownership in the countryside and the fulfillment of the social programs of perestroyka.

Having expressed confidence that the renewal of Soviet society, historic in nature, would produce salutory results, the Canadian prime minister wished the Ukraine's working people success in the accomplishment of the tasks they are tackling.

Present at the discussion on the Soviet side were V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, A.A. Rodionov, USSR ambassador in Canada, V.G. Urchukin, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, V.Yu. Pekhota, administrator of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, and Ukrainian SSR Foreign Minister V.A. Kravets; on the Canadian side, Canadian Foreign Minister J. Clark Canadian Deputy Foreign Minister G. Taylor, W. Turner, Canadian ambassador in the USSR, and other Canadian officials accompanying M.B. Mulroney on his tour of the Soviet Union.

Canadian Newsmen To Train With Moscow Servicemen

PM0301105590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[Report by Captain S. Sidorov: "Journalists Don Uniform"]

[Text] S. Peyn and N. Betts, correspondents of the Canadian newspaper THE TORONTO SUN, will undergo a military training course in a training unit of the Moscow Military District in order to give their readers a "first-hand" account of the life of the Soviet Armed Forces servicemen. For 2 weeks beginning 3 January they will take part in all drill, classroom, and field exercises, observing the daily routine prescribed for cadets in the training subunit.

Under an accord, the Canadian Ministry of National Defense is offering a similar opportunity to two Soviet journalists who will travel to the Canadian Army's Cornwallis military base in the second half of February.

China

Commentary Reviews Sino-U.S. Relations

OW3112044289 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Nikolayev commentary from the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] The first of January 1990 will be the 11th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United State. Our commentator Nikolayev has the following comments on this:

The not very long past has proved that even two countries with such different systems as China and the United States can achieve remarkable results in developing their relations as long as it is to their common interest to do so. Over the past few years, the United States has become one of China's main trade partners in the West as can be proved eloquently by the following figure: During the 10 years following the establishment of their diplomatic relations, the volume of trade between China and the United States has increased nine fold.

On the other hand, however, it should be noted that in these years Beijing and Washington have not eliminated the problems existing in their relations. The Taiwan issue remains a big obstacle. To establish diplomatic relations with China, the United States has recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate Government of China. As a matter of fact, however, the United States has always pursued a two-China policy in these years. The Chinese side has asked the United States to stop supporting Taiwan, especially in the military field, but the U.S. side has turned a deaf ear to this.

Recently, the difference between China and the United States on the Taiwan issue seems to have become a secondary problem for some reason. The year 1989, which is going to pass away, has been a year of serious test of the firmness of Sino-U.S. relations. Because of the measures taken by the Chinese Government in June 1989 against the university students' demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, the U.S. authorities have announced a series of sanctions against China. The United States has canceled the contacts between officials of the two countries, stopped the transfer of military technologies, and suspended some economic and trade projects. The Chinese side has accused the United States of grossly interfering in China's internal affairs. The diplomatic relations between the two countries have been bogged down deeper and deeper in stalemate. The Chinese side has repeatedly pointed out that it is not China, but the United States that should be blamed for the deterioration of Sino-U.S. relations, and that Washington should make the first move to improve the relations between the two countries.

What will become of Sino-U.S. relations in the future? One thing is clear; that is, both wish to see the normalization of their relations. The last month of this year has seen the appearance of relaxation of the tense Sino-U.S. relations. Scowcroft, U.S. presidential assistant for national security, visited Beijing. Then, the U.S. President approved three communications satellites to be provided to China and removed the restrictions formerly imposed on loans for U.S.-aided projects to be built in China. Explaining these steps, U.S. Secretary of State Baker said that the U.S. Government has not changed its appraisal of the action taken by the Chinese Govenrment in the Tiananmen Square incident. At this time, however, we should not deepen the (?tragedy) and isolate China from the international community, he added.

Official, Envoys Comment on Sino-Soviet Relations

USSR Ambassador to China

OW3112061889 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Interview by station commentator Dmitriyev with Troyanovskiy, Soviet ambassador to China: "Soviet-Chinese relations—the Result of the Past Year and an Outlook to Next Year"—from the "Taking the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program]

[Text] [Dmitriyev] The year 1989 is going to pass away. In this year, many events have happened in Soviet-Chinese relations. As the Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China, how do you comment on these events?

[Troyanovskiy is briefly heard speaking in Russian, fading to Mandarin report] The Soviet ambassador said: In the year that is drawing to a close, many events have happened in the relations between our two countries. Of course, a major event was Comrade Gorbachev's visit to China. His meetings, negotiations, and talks with Chinese state and party leaders, of course, signified the complete normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

Comrade Troyanovskiy continued: The summit meeting held in May promoted the all-round development of Soviet-Chinese ties, including the ties in political, economic, trade, scientific, technological, and cultural, and social fields. Since then, important political talks have been held on reducing the armed forces stationed along the Soviet-Chinese border and on creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, tranquility, and neighborliness. The Commission on Economic, Trade, Science, and Technology Cooperation between the two governments has held regular meetings and approved new forms and directions for coordinating efforts in such cooperation. Contacts have also developed smoothly between the parliaments of the two countries. The CPSU and the CPC Central Committees have sent delegations to visit each other. Take the contacts along the border between the two countries as an example. It should be noted that these contacts are a sensitive barometer of country-to-country relations. Today, the indicator of the barometer firmly points to clear sky. Here, the question is not only the vigorous development of economic and trade relations, but also the process of contacts between people living as neighbors—a question which is equally or even more important. Altogether, these enable us to make a positive assessment of the development of relations between our two countries in 1989.

[Dmitriyev] As everyone knows, at the Beijing summit last May, agreement was reach on ending the past and ushering in the future of Soviet-Chinese relations. What do you think of the future? For example, what will 1990 bring to us?

[Troyanovkiy heard speaking in Russian, fading to Mandarin report] Soviet Ambassador to China Troyanovskiy said: I think we should take an optimistic view on the future of Soviet-Chinese relations. In the interests of both the Soviet Union and China, we should have good and stable relations based on friendliness and neighborliness. It goes without saying that we cannot expect to restore the same relations as we had in the fifties. As ancient Greek philosophers put it, we cannot enter twice into the same river. This is also the case here. Since that time, many changes have taken place in both the Soviet

Union and China and on the world arena. Our relations have entered a new stage. In this connection, the Soviet-Chinese Joint Communique on the results of the summit states that the Soviet Union and China will develop their relations on the basis of the Bandung principles guiding state-to-state relations; namely, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mnutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. This will be a reliable foundation for the development of our relations in 1990 and the ensuing years.

Comrade Troyanovskiy concluded: Please allow me to wish the friendly Chinese people a Happy New Year in 1990 in my capacity as the Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China and in the name of the Soviet people as well as in my own name. I wish each and every Chinese family good health, happiness, peace, and prosperity. I wish them success in socialist construction. I wish that friendship and cooperation will be further promoted between the people of our two great countries.

PRC Ambassador to USSR

OW3112111989 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Interview with Comrade Yu Hongliang, PRC ambassador to the USSR, by station commentator Dmitriyev: "Soviet-Chinese relations—the Results of 1989 and an Outlook to Next Year"—from the "Taking the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program; Dmitriyev's questions are read by announcer; Yu's responses are recorded—date, place of interview not given]

[Text] [Dmitriyev] Comrade Yu Hongliang, 1989 is almost over. There have been many developments with regard to Soviet-Chinese relations this year. As the Chinese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, what is your reaction to these developments?

[Yu Hongliang] This year had special importance for the people of our two countries because common aspirations that the peoples of our two countries had cherished for so many years were realized. A summit was held, relations between our two countries were normalized, and new relations were established on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. The relations between our two countries and two parties are developing on this basis. Contacts have increased and cooperation has developed in all fields, including in the political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, and sports spheres. I am very happy about this.

[Dmitriyev] Comrade ambassador, with regard to Soviet-Chinese relations, an agreement on ending the past and on ushering in the future was reached at the summit meeting held in China last May. How do you see the future? For example, what will 1990 bring us?

[Yu] In the first place, both countries aspire to develop their relations. Second, we supplement each other; that is, we can supplement each other through cooperation in the fields of economy, science, and technology. Third, bilateral cooperation is a tradition that boasts a rich experience in the past. In view of this, I personally feel optimistic about the development of our relations. I believe that relations between our two countries and parties will develop further in 1990. In this connection, I believe that contacts will continue at the highest level, our cooperation in economy, science, and technology will expand in scope and become more deverisifed in form, and its scale will develop further on the present basis. We have initialed a long-term cooperative plan for scientific and technological development to the year 2000. I believe that our cooperation in all spheres will continue to develop on the basis of principles laid down at the summit between the two countries.

CPSU Official

OW0201024290 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Dear Chinese friends, now please listen to station reporter Solovyev's interview with Tavrovskiy, a responsible working person in the CPSU Central Committee, on Sino-Soviet relations.

Solovyev asked: What significance does the outcome of the Sino-Soviet summit, held in May this year, have for relations between the two countries at the present stage?

Tavrovskiy replied: The summit signifies a complete normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and China and between their two parties. It makes the summit a truly historical event. As time goes by, people will come to look upon it in this perspective even more clearly. A foundation of goodneighborly relations between the two countries has finally been established after a protracted period of estrangement, distrust, and even frigidity. Therefore, it is hard to overestimate the significance of the event. Today, the foundation has enabled Sino-Soviet relations to rapidly promote cooperation in a reliable manner.

Solovyev: As is known to all, the principle for the relations the two countries plan to establish in future was clearly defined during Gorbachev's China visit. For instance, they touched upon the [words indistinct] of the relations. What is your opinion of this point?

Tavrovskiy said: The ruling parties in the Soviet Union and China are both the Communist Party. Their ideologies are identical. Under these circumstances, any difference would lead to deterioration in relations between the two countries if there were not a nonideological principle set up between them. The situation back in the 1950s was precisely this. The situation now is that each country has its own principles, different from the other. I am of the opinion that this will strengthen the guarantee for sturdy and dependable contacts between the Soviet Union and China. I believe that the few months following the May summit have indicated that the development of Sino-Soviet relations does not harm the interests of a third country. This is very important. As everyone knows, a clear and definite agreement on this point was reached during Gorbachev's visit to China. The agreement has been smoothly fulfilled since then.

Solovyev: How do you evaluate the development in relations between the Soviet Union and China since the May summit?

[Tavrovskiy]: I would like to say that, generally speaking, their relations are enjoying normal development, though it should be pointed out that the political and economic difficulties in the Soviet Union and China have somewhat slowed down the pace of progress. Nevertheless, this will not make us uneasy. What is of primary importance is that Sino-Soviet contacts and cooperation are steadily developing and gradually expanding to new spheres.

Here, I particularly would like to point out that the agreement reached during Gorbachev's visit to China in May on resuming contacts between the CPSU and the CPC is being smoothly fulfilled. A delegation of the CPC Central Committee paid a visit to the Soviet Union. At present, a delegation of the CPSU Central Committee, headed by Falin, director of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, is paying a return visit to China. Touching on the development of Sino-Soviet relations since Gorbachev's China visit in May, I wish to point out that it is purely a relation between peoples.

The interest that the peoples of the two countries have for each other is increasing day by day. It is manifested in a number of areas. All the exhibitions held by China have been enthusiastically welcomed. China's wushu [martial arts] and taijiquan [shadow boxing] have been all the rage for a time in the Soviet Union. The number of people studying the Chinese language also increases day by day. There is pure and true interest in their study. Youngsters are well aware that there is a bright future for contacts between the Soviet Union and China and that, as such, experts proficient in the Chinese language will be in great demand in the future.

Lastly, Tavrovskiy said: I am convinced that, next year, namely 1990, will see new development in Sino-Soviet relations in terms of goodneighborly cooperation. Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union and China will have even more intensive and comprehensive contacts in the fields of economy, culture, sports, and so forth. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to wish Chinese listeners happiness, good luck, and success in the New Year.

PRC Spokesman Cited on Results of 1989

PM0301103590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "China: Summing Up Year's Results"]

[Text] Beijing, 31 Dec—"In the period of the past disorders and rebellion China was really faced with the threat of a coup causing enormous concern in society. Public order and people's feelings have now returned to normal, although there are still some factors of instability which cannot be avoided." That was how Yuan Mu, a spokesman for the PRC State Council, described the main content of the past year at a meeting with Beijing University students and graduate students. He voiced the opinion that the development of the situation in the past 6 months confirms that the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people support the CPC [Communist Party of China] and love socialism.

The government spokesman noted that the new party leadership elected at the fourth plenum of the CPC Central Committee of the 13th convocation is by its actions gradually winning increasing support and trust and strenghtening its ties with the masses.

Touching on the economic situation in the country, Yuan Mu noted the reforms and successes achieved over the decade and indicated some present difficulties.

Northeast Asia

Soviet, Japanese Firms To Cooperate on Robots

PM2912155989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 89 Second Edition p5

[TASS report: "Broadening Cooperation"]

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Dec—The new joint venture which the Japanese companies Fanuc and Mitsui and Co. are planning to set up in the Soviet Union promises to be one of the most interesting Soviet-Japanese economic projects. The world's leading producer of robot equipment and the widely known trading firm have announced their intention to become partners with the Soviet "Stankoservis" Association, which specializes in industrial equipment with digital program control. The initial capital of the joint venture will be 100 million yen; half of the outlays will be covered by the Soviet side and each of the Japanese firms will pay 25 percent.

Accords at USSR-Japan Fishery Talks Reported

OW3112084189 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent assigned to the USSR Ministry of Fish Industry, the sixth meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Fisheries Committee ended on 29 December in Moscow after month-long negotiations.

Conditions and procedures in each other's 200 nautical mile zone in 1990 were discussed at the talks.

Major results of the talks were: The fishing quota for each side will be at the same level as in 1989, or 182,000 tons a year. In addition, regarding Japanese fishing boats' operation in its own economic waters, the Soviet side will award 35,000 tons as fishing quotas requiring fishing fees for the types of fish, mainly of the most expensive ones. And the Japanese side will pay Y884 million and provide the Soviet side with additional 1,000 tons of frozen saury.

These arrangements were agreed at the talks. It was also agreed at the talks that the Japanese side would assign Hitachi port as a port of call for Soviet boats.

Scientific and technological cooperation programs were also adopted at the talks. Both sides also deliberated on the question of implementing other agreements and reached an accord on the development of cooperation among enterprises. To this end, the Soviet side expressed its readiness to attain the fishing quota of 25,000 and 30,000 tons, including deep-sea cod, within the framework of joint operations with Japanese boats.

Both sides agreed to continue consultation on fishing quotas, requiring fishing fees for the types of fish, to Japanese hokutensen [deep-sea trawlers converted to northern waters] in the northern part of the second district in the Soviet economic zone.

Consultation will also likely be continued on cooperation between enterprises of the two sides concerning the utilization of marine resources in the Soviet waters off the Southern Kurils.

The next, seventh meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Fisheries Committee is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in November next year.

(Ukryanikov) and (Akaboya), who headed the two delegations at the sixth meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Fisheries Committee, expressed satisfaction at the agreements reached at the meeting.

The meeting closed on 29 December.

Soviet-DPRK Friendship Society Activities Noted

SK3012113089 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] A delegation of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society led by O Mun-han, its vice chairman, is visiting Moscow. We invited him to the station and asked him to talk about developing relations between the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society and the Soviet counterpart in 1989 and prospects for development of their relations in 1990:

[Begin O Mun-han recording] I can say that friendly and cooperative relations between the friendship societies of the two countries have recently developed in a very favorable manner. This year, many delegations have been exchanged between the Korea-Soviet Friendship Society and the Soviet-Korea Friendship Society; many functions have been held on the occasion of national holidays and other significant days in the two countries; and the day of Korea and the day of the Soviet Union have been celebrated to introduce achievements in socialist construction to the other side. To give concrete examples, a delegation of the North Hamgyong provincial chapter of the friendship society visited the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and attended functions to show success in socialist construction in Korea, in particular in North Hamgyong Province, on the occasion of the day of Korea. The day of Korea was also celebrated in Novosibirsk and Khabarovsk. Film shows, photo exhibitions, book and handicraft exhibitions, and other functions were colorfully held there.

On the part of the Soviet Union, a delegation of the Ukrainian Republic chapter of the friendship society visited Kangwon Province and attended functions to introduce achievements in the Soviet Union, in particular in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, on the occasion of the day of the Soviet Union. Photo, book, and handicraft exhibitions and [words indistinct] exhibitions were held. Also, Ukrainian artists gave art performances and Soviet films were staged there. In addition, a delegation of Khavarovskiy Kray visited South Hamgyong Province and attended functions to introduce successes in Khavarovskiy Kray on the occasion of the day of the Soviet Union. Also, colorful exhibitions, receptions, and art performances were held.

What is also characteristic in the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries this year is that the Soviet- Korean Friendship Society has worked actively along with the Soviet social circles in reply to a worldwide campaign to rescue student Yim Su-kyong, a delegate of South Korea's National Council of University Student Representatives who attended the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students and was arrested by the South Korean puppets after she returned home across Panmunjom.

First of all, the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society issued a statement demanding the release of Yim Su-kyong. In Nakhodka, a motorized team was formed, crossed the Tuman River via Siberia and Primorskiy Kray, marched to Pyongyang by way of North and South Hamgyong provinces, and held various functions at many places. In addition, a marathon race team was formed to rescue Yim su-kyong, crossed the Tuman River via Primorskiy Kray, travelled to Pyongyang by way of North and South Hamgyong provinces, Chongjin, and Hamhung, and organized various functions, including a press conference.

Also, colorful functions were held on the occasion of national holidays in two countries. Rallies were held in Moscow and Kiev on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the founding of our republic and many other functions were held, too.

On the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the October Revolution, a delegation of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society visited Pyongyang. Also, a film delegation and a ballet group visited our country.

In this way, the friendship societies of our two countries have contributed to developing the friendly relations between the two peoples this year by holding many functions. Many projects to develop friendship and cooperation between the friendship societies of our two countries have been planned for next year also. We have visited Moscow to sign a protocol on cooperation to be realized between the friendship societies of the two countries next year. The friendship societies of the two countries have planned to hold colorful functions to celebrate national holidays in the two countries and other significant days next year. In particular, it is expected that as in this year, the day of Korea and the day of the Soviet Union will be marked next year.

A delegation of the Kangwon provincial chapter of the friendship society will visit the Ukrainian SSR and attend functions to mark the day of the (?Korea) next year. The functions will include many exhibitions, art performances, and rallies. Also, it is expected that a delegation of the RSFSR chapter of the friendship society will visit North Hamgyong Province and attend functions to celebrate the day of the Soviet Union next year. Colorful exhibitions, art performances, and other functions will be held then. It is foreseen that as the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries develop, chapters of the friendship society will be organized.

For example, I think that chapters of the friendship society will be formed and friendly relations will be established between South Hwanghae Province and Chita Oblast, between North Hwanghae Province and Sakhalinskaya Oblast, and between North Pyongan Province and Amur Oblast. In particular, an agreement on friendship and cooperation in the cultural field will be reached between North Hwanghae Province and Sakhalinskyaya Oblast and according to the agreement, various delegations and art troupes will be exchanged.

Moreover, cooperation will further develop between friendship units in the future and many projects will be carried out. We are also discussing the question of forming friendly and cooperative missions between the friendship societies of the two countries and of building cultural halls in the capitals of the two countries. Thus relations will further develop and a great contribution will be made to developing friendly relations. I think that the visit to the Soviet Union by our delegation this time will contribute to developing friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and to developing close cooperation between the two friendship societies. [end recording]

DPRK-USSR Exchanges Listed

SK0101231090 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 28 Dec 89

[News about Soviet-Korean relations from the feature program "The Annals of Friendship"]

[Text] DPRK North Hamgyong provincial party and government delegation led by Comrade Choe Kyo-tong, secretary of the party committee of this province, arrived in the Primorskiy Kray in early December. The basic objective of the visit was to study the agricultural and industrial potential of the Primorskiy Kray. The members of the delegation visited several enterprises in Vladivostok and met Comrade Volenchik, first secretary of the Primorskiy Kray party committee.

A large-scale photo exhibition was held by the enthusiasts of the primary organizations of the (Mostroe) 16 Construction Station of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society entitled "The Colleagues of Pyongyang Today." The photos showed how the builders of Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, the workers of the Tongpyongyang Industrial Construction Station, for instance, work and rest.

The two groups of the construction organizations of the capitals have maintained close ties for a long time. They exchange letters as well as work experiences. The functionaries of this construction station visited the DPRK sometime ago. It was then that they brought with them the photos for the photo exhibition.

Today 51 enterprises of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic are realizing the [word indistinct] on various products of the DPRK. These are the (?Korean) machine tools, ducts of various sizes, color television sets, [word indistinct] type tunneling excavators, electronic appliances, and watches. However, one should not think that the [word indistinct] has a general characteristic.

Under the agreement between the governments, several enterprises and plants of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic have direct relations with the enterprises in Pyongyang, Kaesong, and Hamhung. Soviet enterprises (?place orders) from them. For instance, this year, the people's Korea (?supplied the [name indistinct] plant) with 1.5 million women's dresses, and 400,000 men's shirts. These goods are popular with the Soviet buyers.

The Moscow Publishing House Central Committee published a [word indistinct] entitled "[word indistinct] of Pyongyang" written by a Moscow reporter (Boris Valkariy). He was in Pyongyang with his colleagues to attend the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in the capital of the DPRK. (Boris Valkariy) writes about his meeting with the Korean youth and about the (?Pyongyang festival).

Establishment of S. Korea-Yugoslav Ties Reported

SK0301070390 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] South Korea [namjoson] and Yugoslavia have established diplomatic relations, announced the South Korean Foreign Ministry today.

After Hungary and Poland, Yugoslavia has become the third East European country to establish diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Trade Agreement Signed With Mongolia

LD3012204589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] In Moscow a protocol on trade and payments between the Soviet Union and Mongolia for 1990 has been signed. The document envisages the the Mongolian People's Republic supplying the mining industry products, raw materials for light industry, natural leather products and wool garments. Our country will send Mongolia machines, equipment, oil products, and other traditional raw material and consumer goods products.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Moscow Party Delegation Concludes Hanoi Visit

BK2912155389 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 29—A delegation of the Moscow Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, led by its secretary G.I. Kuznetsov concluded a six-day visit to Hanoi today.

While here, the Soviet delegation held talks with a delegation of the Hanoi Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by its deputy permanent secretary, Tran Luu Vy. The two sides informed each other of the current renovation in their respective countries and discussed measures for furthering their comprehensive cooperation between the two cities.

On Dec 27, the two sides concluded a document of bilateral cooperation for 1990-91, which covers, among other things, the exchange of information, study tours and lecturers, and joint ventures in processing agricultural products and manufacturing other goods.

The same day, the guests were received by Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee.

They paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited some economic establishments here which have joint ventures with the Soviet Union.

SRV's Thach Sees Improving S.E. Asia Scene

PM0301112590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 89 Second Edition p 4

[Interview with Nguyen Co Thach, SRV Foreign Minister and member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo, by PRAVDA correspondent M. Domogatskikh: "Splendid Changes"; date of interview not specified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Hanoi—Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and SRV foreign minister, received PRAVDA correspondent M. Domogatskikh and answered his questions.

[Domogatskikh] Comrade Minister, what is your opinion of the current international situation as a whole and the situation in the Asia-Pacific region in particular?

[Nguyen Co Thach] The current phase of the scientific and technical revolution is raising production forces to a new level of development, with a high level of internationalization; this promises further successes in the economic development of various countries. At the same time owing to an increase in political self-awareness and the broadening of their outlook, the peoples of the world are starting to decide their own future independently with increasing confidence. The Soviet Union's bold and crucial initiatives on problems of peace and disarmament adopted in accordance with this trend in the development of the international situation have made an enormous contribution to the formation of new international relations in which both struggle and cooperation are growing simultaneously within the framework of peaceful cooperation.

Over the last 40 years or more Europe has lived in a state of protracted peace, while at the same time the Asia-Pacific region has abounded in "hotspots." However, the latter is at present becoming an area of most dynamic economic development. The peoples inhabiting this area of the globe are naturally striving to ensure peace, which is essential for further progress in this sphere.

[Domogatskikh] In your opinion, what events and political acts have influenced the change in the international situation?

[Nguyen Co Thach] The Soviet Union's initiatives on problems of peace and disarmament were the most helpful in changing the international climate, removing it from a state of "cold war" to conditions of struggle and cooperation on the principles of peaceful coexistence. The restructuring, renewal, and reforms being implemented in socialist countries are gradually giving socialism vital strength. This process is a long, revolutionary struggle, whose task is to change the old order and renew thinking and the way of life in socialist countries. This is necessary to renew socialism and ensure that there is more socialism.

[Domogatskikh] Vietnam's decision to completely withdraw its troops from Cambodia won extensive support and approval worldwide as an important step in the settlement of a complex regional conflict. How can this decision contribute to the stabilization of the situation in the Indochina peninsula and in Southeast Asia?

[Nguyen Co Thach] After 30 years of aggressive war against Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, in 1975 imperialist and reactionary forces began to exploit the genocidal Pol Pot clique in order to create the so-called "Cambodian problem" as an excuse for continuing the policy of confrontation between ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] and the countries of Indochina.

The complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Cambodia clearly showed that the existence of the genocidal Pol Pot clique constitutes the essence of the "Cambodian problem." Along with the conclusion drawn during the informal meetings in Jakarta regarding the two key issues in the "Cambodian problem" (the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops and the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot regime), such factors as the State of Cambodia's proclamation of permanent neutrality and the proposal put by the Lao People's Democratic Republic to create a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality in Southeast Asia provide a firm foundation for establishing peace and stability in the region. This is in accordance with the interests of all states in this region.

A number of ASEAN countries are more realistic in their stance with regard to the resolution of the "Cambodian problem." Inter alia, Indonesia is conducting a peaceful policy and is cooperating with Vietnam; this resulted in the two informal meetings in Jakarta, which later led to the convocation of the international conference in Paris aiming to seek ways to settle the "Cambodian problem." On becoming prime minister of Thailand, Mr Chatchai Chunhawan adopted the policy of improving relations with the countries of Indochina. He proposed convening a narrow, informal meeting within the framework of the Paris conference to discuss the question of forming a mechanism to provide international supervision of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal, the cessation of military aid to the Cambodian sides, and the cease-fire. We have a high opinion of this policy adopted by the Thai prime minister.

[Domogatskikh] How are Vietnam's relations with the ASEAN countries developing today? What could help to improve these relations?

[Nguyen Co Thach] Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries urgently need economic development. For this both Vietnam and ASEAN need peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

Vietnam and Indochina have maintained good mutual relations for a long time now, and these relations are continuing to grow stronger today and become more dynamic. Owing to Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's proposed course of transforming Indochina into a trading zone and also to the proposals aimed at the phased solution of the "Cambodian problem" with a view to securing an all-embracing settlement, Thailand, which put up most incisive opposition to Vietnam on the "Cambodian question" for more than 10 years, has now begun to contribute actively to the peaceful solution of the Cambodian problem. Relations between Vietnam and the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei have improved considerably. Although Singapore is the most hard-line toward Vietnam, it is nevertheless our most important trading partner among the ASEAN countries.

[Domogatskikh] From Vietnamese press reports we are well aware that Vietnamese-Chinese relations are becoming more active—a fact illustrated by talks at the level of deputy foreign ministers and by the revival of border trade. In your opinion, what could help the further normalization of relations between the two countries?

[Nguyen Co Thach] Vietnam and China are two neighboring states which had friendly relations for a long time, but in the last 10 years these relations were not good. Relations have begun to improve of late. The normalization of these relations would benefit our peoples, accord with the interests of other socialist countries, and facilitate the creation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Vietnam has frequently offered to normalize relations with China and resolve all contentious issues through peaceful negotiations.

Of late senior PRC figures have indicated in the course of conversations with representatives of third countries that China would agree to normalize relations with Vietnam following the complete and definitive withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Vietnam welcomes this stance and believes that it has eliminated all the obstacles to the normalization of relations between our countries.

[Domogatskikh] We are meeting with you, Comrade Minister, on the eve of the New Year. What would you like to wish PRAVDA readers in that connection.

[Nguyen Co Thach] I wholeheartedly wish them peace and happiness. I sincerely wish them great victories in the revolutionary struggle for perestroyka.

Vietnamese Deputies Oppose Private Newspapers

*PM2912145589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Dec 89 Second Edition p5*

[TASS report: "Over the Press Law"]

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Dec—A stormy debate developed over the draft press law at the sixth session of the SRV National Assembly in the Vietnamese capital.

A particularly sharp discussion arose over the question of creating private press organs. Nguyen Thanh Lam, deputy from Ho Chi Minh City, said that if power is in the hands of the people and is implemented under the party's leadership there is nothing to fear in the creation of private newspapers. In the opinion of another deputy from the same city, Li Tyan Chung, articles in the draft law disallowing the private publication of newspapers run counter to the constitution, which proclaims citizens' right to freedom of speech.

At the same time, many deputies opposed the opening of private publications. For example, Tran Trong Tan, a deputy from Quang Tri Province, pointed to efforts to develop collective and national ownership rather than private ownership. Consequently, according to him, there is no need to create private newspapers. Ha Thi Thu, a deputy from Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, stressed in his turn that the country now has 265 different newspapers, and so the Vietnamese people have sufficient opportunity to exercise their right to freedom of the press in practice through these publications.

As a result of the vote on this question, 354 deputies opposed the creation of private newspapers and 33 expressed disagreement with this decision. As a whole, 368 of the 430 deputies voted in favor of adopting the press law.

Lao Leaders Cable Gorbachev, Ryzhkov

90UI0236A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 11

[Text] M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet

N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

On behalf of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the Lao People's Democratic Republic Council of Ministers and the whole Laotian people and personally permit us to express to you sincere gratitude for the congratulations sent us on the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

I am sure that as a result of implementation of the policy of renewal in our two countries the close bonds of friendship and all-around cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union will strengthen and develop successfully for the good of the peoples of our two countries and in the interests of peace and socialism.

We wish you and the entire fraternal Soviet people big new successes in the implementation of perestroyka in your country.

[Signed] Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee
Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Council of Ministers
Nouhak Phoumsavan, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Supreme People's Assembly.

Jailing of Burmese Opposition Leader Reported

BK2612073589 Moscow in Burmese to Burma
1430 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] A military tribunal in Myanma [Burma] has passed a 3-year jail term on a well known opposition leader, former General Tin U. He was accused of inciting civil unrest and of endeavoring to divide the Defense Forces.

U Tin U, together with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the late Myanma national leader, has been under house arrest since 20 July. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also faces similar charges. According to the statistics from international human rights organizations, at least 2,000 people have been detained since the ascension to power by the current military government.

Cambodian Ambassador Ends USSR Stay

PM0301130990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Departure from Moscow"]

[Text] Hor Nam Hong, Cambodian ambassador to the USSR, left Moscow 1 January.

Near East & South Asia

Iranian Foreign Ministry Hit for Ceausescu Visit

LD3012195889 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress
in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Dec

[Text] The events in Romania, in the course of which the dictatorial regime of Ceausescu was toppled, led to a flood of criticism of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's incompetence by a number of Majlis deputies and the country's mass media.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry was severely criticized because it did not stop Ceausescu's official visit to Tehran on the eve of the occurrence of fatal events. In the opinion of political analysts, this issue damaged Iran's international credibility, which gave the West a pretext for starting a series of slanderous propoganda. As a result, the Iranian ambassador to Romania left his post due to mistaken analyses of the situation in Romania.

In this connection, our commentator writes: In principle, one can agree with the Tehran published KEYHAN newspaper which writes that error is an inevitable companion and fellow traveller of human nature, even if it is of a diplomatic nature. It was indeed difficult to assess the situation in Romania, since Ceausescu's Romania was a highly closed and bound society. Everyone was aware that the toppled Romanian leaders lived over the people's volcano of wrath, but one could hardly guarantee the timing of the volcano's eruption. It seems that even Ceausescu himself, who was executed on return to Romania following his visit to Tehran, was unaware of it. However, diplomatic experts criticize Iran because officials did not listen to the voices condemning the dictatorial regime of Ceausescu, and made a wrong assessment of Ceausescu's visit to Iran. Incidentally, such criticisms were leveled against the Iranian Foreign Ministry primarily by fundamentalists.

I cannot say that Ceausescu was given a cold reception in Tehran. What one deduces from the Iranian press, especially papers voicing the opinions of fundamentalists, is that they linked the Romanian dictator's visit to hopes of improvement in future relations between Iran and Romania. A number of the newspapers saw a kind of union against the superpowers in their country's relations with the Ceausescu's regime. Therefore, the only way one can implicate the Iranian Foreign Ministry is by saying that it fell into the unrealistic policy of exploiting the differences and disputes between the major powers, but it seems that Foreign Ministry officials, too, suffer from such delusions.

Another point concerns their claim as the guardians of the oppressed nations, especially the Romanian people and those who defend democracy. Such persistant claims are made specially in the fundamentalists camps, but I believe that the criterion of sincere defense of democracy should above all be in the service of the rights and liberties of one's own nation. Moreover, one cannot name the fundamentalists as the advocates of democratic reforms in Iran. Their actions aimed at stifling the national movement for the democratization of the country and submission of other views are full proof of that reality.

Why is it that the fundamentalists are zealously condemning the Iranian Foreign Ministry for misinterpreting the events in Romania? To answer this question, it is necessary to remind ourselves of the debates that took place in the Iranian Majlis at the end of last summer. At that time 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of Iran, was interpellated because he appointed highly educated experts in the Foreign Ministry instead of those experienced in fighting for Islamic beliefs.

Some observers interpret this inclination of the fundamentalists as the desire to topple the technocrats. Since the time when the fundamentalists remarkably consolidated their positions after the mid-term elections in the Majlis, it seems that such inclination has increased even further. In any case, what is important is relations between Iran and Romania in the wake of the Romanian National Salvation Front's coming to power. However, neither the Western propoganda levelled against Iran in connection with the events in Romania, nor the worsening of the internal struggles over leadership in Iran, can [word indistinct] this situation in Iran. As the Romanian ambassador in Tehran has remarked, the Romanian National Salvation Front wishes to attract Iran's friendship.

Commentary Views New Iran-Israel Trade Links

LD2912090689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Commentary by Station Correspondent Aleksandr Levchenko]

[Text] A sensation, literally the equivalent of a bomb going off, has been created in the Muslim world by new information with regard to trade links between Iran and Israel. Our correspondent on the countries of the Persian Gulf, Aleksandr Levchenko, reports:

[Levchenko] On 17 December this year, the U.S. television company NBC reported that Israel had paid $36 million for 2 million barrels of Iranian oil, which had been delivered in mid-November to the Israeli port of Eilat. For 10 days, official representatives of the Israeli leadership refused to confirm or deny this report. Official Tehran did exactly the same. It was only on 26 December that Moshe Arens, Israeli minister of foreign affairs, confirmed at a press conference that he did have information at his disposal on the deal that had taken place. For the moment, the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran are keeping silent, and predicting their reaction is a complex matter. After all, they have found themselves in a painfully delicate position. For a decade official Iranian propaganda has insisted and repeated in the words of its leaders that Israel is the sworn enemy of the Islamic Republic.

What objectives were Tel Aviv and Tehran pursuing in allowing this deal, which diverges from the official foreign policy course of these countries? Arab political observers are concentrating attention primarily on an interview by Iran's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Besharati, given on 18 December to the Qatar newspaper AL-RAYAH. Besharati said, inter alia, that Iran is advising its friends in Lebanon to release the Western hostages they are holding there.

Now for a little history. In 1974, after the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, 52 U.S. diplomats were held hostage for 444 days. Iran made their release dependent upon unfreezing Iranian investments in U.S. banks. Hostages figured once again in the Irangate period, when in return for their releases, the U.S. allowed Israel to sell U.S. arms from its reserves to Iran, then suffering from an urgent shortage of these during the war with Iraq. Then, finally, there is the present situation regarding the hostages. The REUTERS AGENCY notes that the hostages are used as small change each time Iran is trying to achieve specific political or economic aims. In this instance, the $36 million Tehran has received from its oil sales to Israel is not a massive sum for the Iranian economy, and even for Israel, the 2 million barrels of oil is a mere 2 weeks supply.

However, this deal—perhaps it could be called Israelgate—was, I think, a signal of sorts to the effect that Iran is ready to throw off its anti-Western rhetoric, and in return for cooperation in solving the hostage problem is demanding from the West that it establishes wideranging economic links with Iran.

CPSU Sends Greetings to Afghanistan's PDPA

PM0101172990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[CPSU Central Committee greetings to People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee on party's anniversary]

[Text] To the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee

Dear Comrades!

We cordially congratulate you on an important date—the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the PDPA.

Soviet Communists decisively support the PDPA's policy of national reconciliation and are in solidarity with your struggle for an independent, nonaligned, demilitarized, democratic Afghanistan. We believe that the fratricidal war will come to an end and that peace and harmony will reign supreme in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan.

Our policy of friendship and good-neighborliness with the Afghan people remains unchanged.

May cooperation between the CPSU and the PDPA develop and strengthen.

CPSU Central Committee

Afghan Leader Urges Party To Seek 'National Interests'

PM0301125590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 1

[From the roundup of TASS, REUTER, and UPI reports, under the "Abroad" rubric: "Najibullah's Statement"]

[Text] Afghan President Najibullah issued the following statement in Kabul: "Some of the provisions of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] action program do not accord with contemporary conditions. Many parties abroad give priority in their work to guaranteeing general national interests, and the PDPA must move on from defending narrow party interests to defending general national interests."

Cyprus Proposes Conference on Afghanistan

90UI0239A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
24 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 11

[Dispatch by A. Nikolayev: "For an International Conference on Afghanistan"]

[Text] The chairman of the Cypriot house of representatives V. Lissaridis made a proposal not so long ago to convene an international parliamentary conference on Afghanistan. An IZVESTIYA correspondent asked V. Lissaridis to discuss the course if realization of this initiative.

"We decided to appeal to the parliaments of the USSR, the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and also India, several Arab countries and other states to jointly consider and decide how we can help to implement the Geneva agreements with respect to Afghanistan as quickly as possible. I hope that the unofficial exchange of opinions regarding preparing for this conference will take place during the session of the Interparliamentary Union which will be held in Cyprus at the beginning of April of next year," said V. Lissaridis.

"Have they managed to determine the time earmarked for the parliamentary congress on the Afghan problem?"

"Not yet. We still have to arrange working contacts with the parliaments of the states participating in the Geneva agreements. It might be necessary to make a number of trips to convince some people of the need to participate...."

Obituary of Soviet Ambassador to Iraq

90UI0238A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 12

[Text] V.I. Minin, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Iraq, died on 19 December after a serious and prolonged illness. A man of high ideological convictions and a prominent Soviet diplomat who contributed to the development and strengthening of the USSR's relations with countries of the "Third World" has passed away.

V.I. Minin was born in 1926 in Moscow. In 1948 he graduated from the Moscow State International Relations Institute, and in 1957 from the USSR Foreign Minister Higher Diplomatic School. He gave more than 4 decades to work in various fields of the Soviet diplomatic service, progressing from intern to USSR ambassador. From 1968 through 1972 he was USSR ambassador in Laos. In the period 1972-1978 he headed the USSR Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department. In 1978-1982 he was USSR ambassador in the Republic of Guinea. Since 1982 he had been USSR ambassador in the Republic of Iraq.

V.I. Minin was awarded three orders of the Labor Red Banner and the orders of friendship of the peoples and the "Badge of Honor" and medals.

A kind, sincere, industrious and responsive person and high-minded communist, he enjoyed the profound respect of his work comrades.

All who knew V.I. Minin will always remember him well.

[Signed] E.A. Shevardnadze, A.A. Bessmertnykh, Yu.M. Vorontsov, A.G. Kovalev, I.P. Aboimov, A.L. Adamishin, V.P. Karpov, V.G. Komplektov, V.M. Nikiforov, E.Ye. Obminskiy, V.F. Petrovskiy, I.A. Rogachev, B.N. Chaplin, V.M. Vasev, G.I. Gerasimov, I.S. Ivanov, O.G. Peresypkin, V.P. Polyakov, S.P. Tarasenko, V.P. Terekhov, V.I. Dolgov.

Status of Soviet-Saudi Relations Reported

PM2912120189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent V. Shevchenko: "Five Days in Saudi Arabia"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh - Kuwait—"Many people believe that only rich princes with automobiles made of gold and harems of a hundred wives each live in Saudi Arabia. But that is by no means so. I have just one wife and I don't know how to cope with her," Prince 'Abdallah says with a smile. According to the Arab custom the Saudi prince gives a hospitable welcome to his foreign journalist guests in a bedouin tent pitched directly in the desert. "As for the 'gold automobiles,' the time when the Saudis who had gotten rich quick in the oil business did not know where to put their money has long since passed," he continued. "The country's welfare and prosperity are not manna from heaven but a developed economy and advantageous trade. The revenue from the sale of oil goes to develop our own industry, infrastructure, and agriculture. And I can say that marked successes have been achieved in these fields."

We three Soviet journalists visiting Saudi Arabia had occasion to convince ourselves of this during our 5-day stay. [passage omitted]

During the 5 days we had many meetings with Saudis at various levels. Our interlocutors displayed sincere interest in our country and the changes taking place in it. "Unfortunately, we still know little about the USSR and many Saudis's idea of the Soviet Union is limited to a view of the Kremlin," Saudi Arabian Information Ministry staffer Husayn Al-Harbi said in a talk with me.

In the past the USSR and Saudi Arabia were linked by ties of friendship and cooperation. Our country was the first to announce its recognition of Saudi Arabia and in February 1926 established diplomatic relations with it. Political and trade ties developed actively. People here remember how the first Soviet ship arrived in Jiddah in 1927 carrying gasoline, matches, flour, and sugar. "There are now virtually no obstacles to the exchange of diplomatic missions between the two countries. The establishment of business contacts and their filling with mutually advantageous cooperation would greatly promote this." That is the opinion of our Saudi interlocutors.

General Lizichev Receives Algerian Delegation

PM2812101589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Dec 89 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] A delegation of leading political workers from the Algerian People's Democratic Republic National People's Army headed by Colonel Yahia Rahal, chief of the Algerian National People's Army political commissariat central directorate, was in the Soviet Union 21 through 25 December at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, met with the delegation.

In the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate the Algerian guests were acquainted with the experience of organizing political educational work in the Soviet Armed Forces. The delegation visited the V.I. Lenin military-political academy, the "Vystrel" officer courses, and the USSR Defense Ministry military history institute and went to the USSR Armed Forces Central Museum.

The delegation members laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Kremlin wall.

Tunisian CP Calls for Party Name Change

90UI0239B Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 11

[Dispatch by A. Portanskiy (Algiers): "A Communist Party Decision"]

[Text] The influence of the radical changes in Eastern Europe is being felt far beyond its borders, particularly among the progressive parties of the Arab countries.

"We assume that it is expedient to change the name of the party," M. Harmel, general secretary of the Tunisian Communist Party (TCP) declared recently, "and therefore we decided to hold our congress not in 1991 as was planned but before the end of 1990." In the words oft he leaders of the TCP, in the future it will be transformed into a new left-wing party.

I recall that Tunisia is one of the few Arab countries where the communist party operates openly within the framework of a multiparty system. Little more than a year ago in the presidential palace in Carthage its general secretary along with representatives of other of the country's political forces signed the National Pact, a historical document that became the expression of the consensus of "all healthy forces in the nation." In order to overcome the difficult sociopolitical situation in the country, the pact called for unity of the nation and proclaimed pluralism, democracy, observance of human rights, and the primacy of the law. The TCP is actively working to realize the ideas of the pact.

"The country has nothing to fear from democratic freedoms," emphasized M. Harmel in his conversation with our correspondent. "Within the framework of the general consensus and the support we are giving President ben Ali, differences of opinion and contradictions arise. There is nothing unusual in this when one is speaking about the development of a democratic process. We are striving to have the TCP play in this process the role of the national democratic party of progressive opposition which criticizes the negative aspects of the internal political life and strives to make a contribution to the real democratic movement in the country. This means not waiting until something comes down from above. In our country people are saying that before 7 November 1987 (the date of the change of power in Tunisia, when the president 'for life' was replaced by the current president, A. Ben Ali—A.P.) everything bad came from above, and after that date everything good began to come from above. But we want for everything to come from the lower levels, from the workers, youth, and intelligentsia who are prepared to take their destiny into their hands."

The leader of the Tunisian Communist Party appealed to "both socialist and Marxist forces in the Arab world to analyze the changes taking place in the European socialist countries without any kind of self-justification or self-protection in order to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past."

Commentator Views Conflict, Events in Sudan

EA2712204989 Moscow International Service in Amharic 1530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Commentary by political commentator Vladimir Borisov on the political events in 1989 in the Sudan; from the "Africa As We See It" program]

[Text] The major political event which reached the limelight occurred on 30 June 1989. High-ranking military officials led by General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir got rid of the government of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, which was unable to solve the country's problems. The assumption of power by the generals brought hope that they would bring better social changes to the nationalities in the country.

The new government expressed its readiness to bring an end to the (?6)-year war in the Sudan. It is known that the Christians and animists led by John Garang have been fighting the northern oppressors. But in the first talks, which failed to reach an understanding, the opposition group brought up the Shari'ah issue, which is not accepted by the followers of the Christian region, as the major cause for the misunderstanding.

Two months later, the military government said that the conflict could be solved through the formation of federal governments in the Sudan and it supported a statement issued by the national conference for peaceful dialogue. Members of the federation could accept the Islamic or religious laws. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], brushing aside the statement of the conference, stated that they wanted a constitutional conference and the abolition of the military regime.

This was revealed recently when the two opposition sides met for renewed peace talks in Nairobi. The peace talks did not produce anything tangible. Soon after the talks, Khartoum dismissed the proposals by the opposition group and instituted Shari'ah and allowed the Islamic military tribunals to carry out their normal activities.

Now at the end of the year, the [words indistinct] are diminishing. According to political observers, the new government has not been able to improve the situation in the country.

Any opposition against the government and [words indistinct] manifested against the government is (?no longer being suppressed). This being the case, the Sudanese regime has mapped out a strategy to solve the conflict, giving consideration to a religious [words indistinct] and individual interests.

In my view, says our political observer, [words indistinct] can open an avenue to ease the military tension and democratize the country. The SPLA's stand is in line with the above-mentioned national interests. Then what is the interest of opposition groups in being stubborn instead of solving their problems? The issue is that the SPLA and the Khartoum military leaders are [words indistinct]. Earlier there were problems that could be solved among them in order to continue the building of the nation.

There are several problems in the country, among them the problems of tribal conflicts in the south. Due to the accumulation of enormous amounts of armaments in the southern part of the country, there might be conflicts between the leader of the SPLA and the different tribes there. This will definitely not only weaken the SPLA but will also affect their hopes of gaining power if a federation is established in the country.

The conflict in the Sudan could not be solved in 1989. Many African and Arab countries (?think) that this conflict might bring about tension in the relations between them. The issue reflects on the foreign policy of the opposition groups.

When Gen al-Bashir is trying to establish military agreements with Arab states, Garang is trying to gain support from non-Islamic African countries. Their attempts were not in vain. [words indistinct] hence they have caused the death of many thousands of people. But the opposition group and the government have not abandoned their attempts to carry out peaceful dialogue. It would be good if they would come together at a round table next year, and abandon their military and political interests to think of the future of the millions of Sudanese citizens.

Soviet Official Comments on Relations With India

BK2312113089 Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Dec 89 p 4

["Excerpts" from interview with Dr Sergey Lunev, Soviet foreign policy expert, by Rajiv Shah in Moscow; date not given—questions published in boldface]

[Text] Moscow: In an exclusive interview to PATRIOT, a top Soviet foreign policy expert, Dr Sergey Lunev, who heads the foreign policy section of the Soviet think-tank India Centre, has said that he foresees no visible change in Indo-Soviet political relations and that these will continue to develop as before despite internal convulsions in either of the two countries.

Talking on a whole range of foreign policy issues involving India's relations with not only the Soviet Union but also other countries, particularly the neighbours, Dr Lunev says that the Soviet Union would prefer a quicker movement towards demilitarisation in the region in view of the current international trend in that direction.

Excerpts from the interview:

The internal political situation in the Indian subcontinent has taken a new, some would say unprecedented, turn. How, in your view, would it affect Indo-Soviet relations, particularly the Soviet foreign policy towards India?

There have been some voices in the Soviet Union of late about the need to change the Soviet foreign policy. But, in his report to the USSR Supreme Soviet, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, while reviewing the period 1985-89, categorically stated that the Soviet Union would consider and fulfill the system of mutual obligations with all countries of Asia and, indeed, the world, including all commitments. His statement that honesty and loyalty are closely connected with new political thinking had a wide public response in the country.

A special section in the report was devoted to India. The section should be read against the background of apprehensions in India about excessive emphasis being given to Soviet-US and Soviet-European ties. I would like to say, just now, it is absolutely necessary to prevent the whole planet from the danger of a thermonuclear war. Hence, Soviet-US relations will continue to play a crucial role. But that does not mean that there are any shifts in the Soviet foreign policy course towards India.

It is necessary to point towards similar, or at least not contradicting, nature of Indo-Soviet relations and the interests of the two countries. Strengthening of relations meets the economic demands of our two states. I would like to point towards the geopolitical and people's diplomacy, two important factors in the relations, as well. India is the most popular country in the Soviet Union, and perhaps the same is true of the USSR in India. That is why even crucial shifts in internal life of the two countries did not lead to deterioration in the two countries' relations.

I think that the same trend will continue in future. India is a natural and reliable ally of the Soviet Union and an indispensable partner for over three decades now.

But, surely, there may be some shifts?

I think political ties will remain the same, though perhaps there may be a small worsening of our economic ties, due to the very difficult Soviet economic processes. That too will be a temporary phenomenon. The Soviet Union will be able to make a rapid economic progress soon, and that will help India. In the fifties, sixties and seventies, India was very much interested in developing economic links with the Soviet Union due to heavy industry, the state sector that was developing in India due to the Soviet links. But now India is interested in high technology, which the Soviet Union cannot give at least for 10-15 years. A quick modernisation of technology is a must.

Therefore, as for political ties, I think, the main directions will be Sino-Soviet normalisation and Sino-Indian normalisation. The emergence of a Soviet-Indian-Chinese triangle will stabilise the situation in the whole area.

Do you think that the relations between India and the Soviet Union have been 'de-ideologised' in keeping with the new political thinking, to make them acceptable to all internal changes?

Gorbachev spoke of de-ideologising inter-state and not international relations which means that only the relations between states are determined without ideological considerations. As for relations between parties, organisations and institutions, these continue to have an ideological framework. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first leader to speak of the need to de-ideologise inter-state relations.

Fortunately, the Soviet Union decided to follow the same course. Our interdependent world is very fragile. If we proceed from ideological considerations, then it will endanger its existence. The world will be stable only in case inter-state relations are de-ideologised.

But, has the new idea affected Soviet ties with India?

Not at all. Earlier too the inter-state relations were de-ideologised. We spoke of Indo-Soviet relations as an example of peaceful co-existence between two different systems. Only during the Stalin era, the relations were based on ideological considerations. He believed India must go along socialist path, as China. Hence Stalin was unfriendly to the new Congress rule.

Naturally, Soviet positions need to be blamed for that. But after Khruschev things changed. Ideology stopped playing a role.

What is your views of Indo-Pak relations? Will they normalise?

It is very difficult unless the civilian government is strengthened in Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto does not have all the powers in her hands. A lot will depend on the internal processes. It has been the steady aim of different Indian Governments to develop good relations with Pakistan.

But in this context, I want to make my position clear: I do not think that Pakistan is a big military threat to India. If you compare Indian and Pakistani military forces, then India may be twice stronger. But, of course, we must keep in view the American military buildup in Pakistan, as also Chinese. India needs to defend itself.

I believe there is a different threat: of cultural character. From Islamic fundamentalism, influencing a section of the Indian middle class.

Would you favour a demilitarisation in South Asia? How can that be achieved?

Through new political thinking. Last year, India cut its military spendings. It was a good step. It spends about 10 billion dollars on the military per year, which is a huge burden on India, especially its economy.

But in the military field the Soviet Union and India have for long been cooperating....

Yes, along with the US, the USSR is the main arms exporter of the world. But today we want to reduce it as much as possible.

Does it mean that military cooperation between the two countries will go down?

I am not sure. India is a natural ally of the Soviet Union. It all depends on India's needs.

What do you say of the idea to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone?

Personally, I agree with the idea. Maybe, the Indian public thinks differently, but I think that, when denuclearisation process is on in the world, it is not possible to remain aloof. If more countries go nuclear, when nuclear disarmament will lose its meaning. More than a dozen countries have such a potential—they can go nuclear within a month, or perhaps a week. So, I think, no other countries would have new nuclear weapons.

True, in India's neighbourhood, China has nuclear weapons and there are bases in the Indian Ocean with American nuclear weapons. But I think it is necessary to distinguish between a nuclear power and a big power. India is a big power. It is not a question of ratifying the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Rajiv Gandhi had said, a new treaty would be needed. But I think, it is more essential for no new countries to go nuclear. With US-Soviet agreements, in the nearest future, China, France and Britain, the other three nuclear powers, should be involved in the disarmament process.

How do you view India's relations with its smaller neighbours? There was some irritation recently.

India plays a dominant role in South Asia. As Nehru said, India cannot do anything about it. It just happens that she occupies the central place in South Asia. Whether it is population, territory, economy or military, three-fourths of all power are vested in India.

But there were some ups and downs?

Such ups and downs are more connected with the internal developments of each country. In India also, internal factors influence its relations with neighbours. During the Janata rule. India's relations were better with neighbours, in the early period of Rajiv Gandhi also the situation had turned better. But, in the core, the relations have remained the same. India is in a difficult position as it is a huge country.

So, in your reading, the problem is emotional?

Yes. Psychologically, the neighbours look at India with fear. But the problem is the same with all big countries. Look at Soviet relations with East European countries—they are our allies, but there too the psychological factors play a role. They need careful handling.

You talked of apprehensions regarding Soviet-U.S. relations in India. But what of Soviet apprehensions regarding Indo-U.S. relations?

India has achieved the aim to have normal relations with the United States. Even two years ago, there were some Soviet experts who were very upset about this. The theory was that closer Indo-U.S. economic ties would mean closer political relations between the two countries. But now the situation is different.

Even our official view is that India needs better economic relations with the United States as it would help its economy. As for political relations, we must not forget that India is a capitalist country. Up to the early 1980s, however, it was not a part of the world capitalist economy. But the normal process of interaction with the world capitalist economy is underway. It is a normal thing.

India is a big country. To develop these normal ties, it must have normal political ties. The past negative attitude towards India is now giving way to a rational shift.

Do you think that the United States plays a destabilising role against India?

In the past, yes. But now, no, not so much. The United States has at last decided to recognise the dominant role of India in South Asia.

East Europe

Soviet Scholar Assesses Ceausescu Regime

LD0201174890 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 2 Jan 90

["Soviet Scholar on USSR's Attitude to Ceausescu Regime"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS—By TASS news analyst Aleksandr Kondrashov:

"In recent years the Soviet side attempted to prompt the former Romanian leader towards a deeper understanding of the need for democracy under socialism and of the importance of involving people in the processes of socialist construction. But these attempts had little or no effect", Professor Mikhail Muntyan, a prominent Soviet specialist on Romania, said in a TASS interview.

"Certainly, it should be admitted that we did not display in full measure the adherence to principle in our evaluation of the autocratic regime forming in Romania. But when developing relations with Romania, the Soviet Union has always prioritised cementing cooperation and friendship with the Romanian people rather than with the Ceausescu regime".

Muntyan touched on the issue that some Western politicians are showing some repentence for their support of Ceausescu's "special course", while ignoring his antipopular policy.

He pointed out that "different Western countries bear differing amounts of responsibility, and their actions related to the situation in the 1970s rather than in recent years. Nevertheless, it is legitimate to content that during the 1970s, irrespective of the apparent anti-democratic essence of the Ceausescu regime, the West supported it, trying to use Ceausescu's 'special course' in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation to loosen relations among the socialist countries".

Secondly, in the scholar's opinion, "Ceausescu bolstered his power by cultivating nationalist elements and nourishing them with an 'external threat', which was personified in propaganda terms by Hungary in the West and the Soviet Union in the East. And although the positions of Romania and the USSR coincided on the global issues of war and peace, the Ceausescu regime was actually anti-Soviet.

"Ceausescu initiated the constant stirring of territorial issues related to the USSR in Romanian historical literature. Even at the recent 14th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, he raised the issue of the secret protocols to the 1939 Soviet-German non-aggression pact in such a way that it was evaluated by all as indirect territorial claims on the USSR. Figuratively speaking, Ceausescu wanted to obtain a historical promissory note so as to try and present it at a convenient time. Briefly, the former Romanian leader demonstrated his independence in international affairs through his anti-Sovietism".

Muntyan stressed that "the Soviet Union's support of the Ceausescu regime needed to be considered in the context of the West's responsibility."

The scholar also commented on Ceausescu's actions that frequently ran counter to the positions of the former Soviet leadership, mentioning that new Soviet evaluations and approaches appreciate that the former Soviet leadership was, to say the least, often misguided.

"Ceausescu had a degree of freedom in relation to the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the West, which gave him considerable advantages," Muntyan said. "Acting out of national selfishness, he tried to play the role of a world 'middleman', exploiting in hos own interests efforts towards overcoming 'power approaches' and towards achieving compromises. On the other hand, the USSR's foreign policy during the stagnation period, which was dogmatised in many respects and stemmed from incorrect directives, largely played into his hands."

Touching on new political thinking, the scholar noted that "its elements are known to have originated not so much within the framework of Marxism, as in a movement of scientists and politicians who back in the 50s became aware that the appearance of nuclear weapons meant an end to wars."

"In the 1960-70s, Ceausescu, without even being aware of it as a new concept for the organisation of international affairs, nevertheless used some elements of new thinking to substantiate his actions.

"For instance, Ceausescu advocated the de-ideologisation of inter-state relations with capitalist countries. He used this thesis to explain why his country maintained diplomatic relations with Israel following its aggression against Arab countries in 1967 and maintained its embassy in Chile after the 1973 military coup.

"In the 1980s, however, the foreign policy of the former Romanian regime began to lose its effectiveness. If a parallel is drawn between the Romanian and Soviet policy on the international scene, they are changing places. The USSR is quickly moving away from excessive dogmatisation and ideologisation, while Romania totally subordinates its foreign policy to the interests of defending the stability of Ceausescu's autocratic rule.

"This fact coupled with the increased persecution of dissidents, rather than the surging foreign debt, as is frequently believed, quickly lowered the prestige of the Romanian foreign policy in the world.

"It also predetermined Romania's increasingly unpopular positions at a whole number of international forums, for example its shocking obstructionism at the Paris conference on chemical weapons, during the signing of documents on human rights and freedoms at the Vienna conference and at the ecoforum in Sofia."

"As a result, Ceausescu appeared to be ostracized from the West," Muntyan said. "In relations with the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, he dug an ideological ditch and isolated himself in order to prevent the spread of renewal processes to Romania. He feared this renewal far more than the so-called subversive activity of international imperialism."

Romanian Front's Chairman Ionescu Interviewed

PM0201181690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with Casimir Ionescu, deputy chairman of Romanian National Salvation Front Council, by special correspondents V. Volodin and M. Krushinskiy in Bucharest: "Romania: Danger Is Not Over Yet"—date not given; first paragraph is correspondents' introduction]

[Text] Bucharest—We are in one of the offices in the old Foreign Ministry building, where the government residence is located today. Our interviewee is a thin, dark-haired man of medium height, with an energetic face and expressive gestures. His eyelids are red with sleeplessness and his voice is hoarse from addressing rallies. Casimir Ionescu is 43. He is married, with a 5-year-old son.

[Correspondents] Thank you for finding time for this interview even though you are extremely busy. To begin with, could you perhaps say a few words about the "mainsprings" of the December revolution in Romania?

[Ionescu] It has already been reported in the press that our movement was entirely spontaneous. It was not organized. And with that system of total surveillance of citizens, any organization would have been simply impossible. I don't know whether you can imagine what it was like in our country. They monitored telephone conversations, letters, your every move; the secret police had a detailed file on every person... We were all like robots controlled from some kind of control panel. Any attempt to organize for the purposes of protest was suppressed at birth.

[Correspondents] And the people involved?

[Ionescu] Usually they simply disappeared. Without any explanation to anyone, without official prosecution, so to speak, on the part of the law. Or else they were put in hospital, in total isolation. "Political" conversations could only take place among circles of very close friends. But there were a great many such "circles" in the country, and society functioned like a bush telegraph: "Unofficial information" rapidly spread everywhere, by word of mouth. Unfortunately, the secret police agents knew about this too, and often were able to intercept both the information itself and the people transmitting it. Although, of course, everyone tried to make contact only with those whom he trusted completely.

In this situation we watched with joy and hope the development of events in your country and in other East European countries. When the wave of change reached Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, it became clear to us that we could not wait any longer. Before our very eyes history was quickening its pace, and to miss the express train of history would have meant falling into a kind of time "trap" with no hope of ever making up for lost time.

[Correspondents] "Now or never"?

[Ionescu] Precisely. Apart from anything else, if we had missed the train we would also have suffered a setback in economic development—once again, with no chance of catching up with the rest of the world.

[Correspondents] But this is not quite clear. You present everything that happened subsequently as a kind of spontaneous explosion. But it appears that some elements of organization did exist?

[Ionescu] No, no... There were, I repeat, only groups of five, six, seven, or eight people, who had no opportunity of influencing the course of events in any way. We could only passively observe their development. And draw our conclusions. And at a certain moment we realized that in at least two respects the situation was favorable to the goals of overthrowing the tyranny.

[Correspondents] What are you referring to?

[Ionescu] First, the approaching celebration of Christmas, because that is an opportunity to take to the streets and gather in groups legally, without arousing suspicion. And the second point was that there is, after all, a category of Romanian citizens who, unlike the vast majority of their compatriots, cannot disappear from the face of the earth without the world noticing. I am referring to those who have friends and relatives abroad and members of the Hungarian and German national minorities. And we were all preparing inwardly to support the actions of these categories of citizens when the time came. Our calculations proved justified when the events in Timisoara began.

[Correspondents] It is still not clear. How could it happen that without any organization, as you claim, the mass of people here in Bucharest came out in support of the Hungarian minority in Timisoara? You keep saying—"we were ready," "we foresaw," and so forth. Who exactly do you mean by that word "we"?

[Ionescu] Groups of individuals (six to eight people) meeting in an apartment, plus three or four people at work.

[Correspondents] So it is not a question of a group of people underground who rose up to head the movement? And revolutionary ideas were circulating through the country simply by word of mouth?

[Ionescu] Obviously it is hard to believe it, but facts are facts. When the events erupted in Timisoara, many thousands of people in the country, without colluding, knew what they had to do. Furthermore we knew the dictator's people, and therefore we could predict his actions. We knew there would be a public appearance by Ceausescu and a square full of puppets, placards, shouts of "Treyaske!" [as transliterated] (Long live!...) from the crowd. We realized that if that demonstration of "unity" between the dictator and the masses was successful, the next day, using "the mandate from the people," he would wipe Timisoara off the face of the earth, and the most furious fascist repressions would beset all of us...

On the eve of the rally at which Ceausescu spoke, I met with a friend of mine...

[Correspondents] Where?

[Ionescu] At my home. We met to consider the situation that had arisen...

[Correspondents] What were you then? Where did you work?

[Ionescu] I was an ordinary citizen of my country, well, perhaps, so to speak, the emotional leader of one of many groups. By profession I am a petroleum engineer, and I was working at the corresponding institute.

So there we were. After discussing the situation that evening, we came to the conclusion that there is only one path to salvation: to wreck the planned rally in the main square of Bucharest. Not to allow it to pass off according to the intended scenario. Someone, perhaps sacrificing their life, had to break into the circle of demonstrators expressing "unanimous" support—in the people's name—for the dictatorship, and hold their own "counter-rally."

Neither I nor my friend was able to break out of the confines of our institute on that day, because all the exits were blocked and all the workers were, so to speak, confined to barracks. But a few of our people—women and girls—managed to carry out the plan. They broke through the cordons and were the first to start shouting: "Down with the dictator!" And many of the people standing in the square, awakening from their hypnosis, started to throw down the placards, and stones were hurled at the dictator. The show he had planned turned against him!

[Correspondents] Is there a danger of the restoration of the antipopular regime today?

[Ionescu] Every day, the danger is drawing nearer to zero. All the same, until the terrorists who are fanatically devoted to the ousted clique have laid down their arms, it is premature to speak of the complete disappearance of danger. It was their activeness that forced us, as you know, to carry out the death sentence on Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu without delay.

[Correspondents] Does the new leadership understand that that step caused some disappointment among the world public? Because millions of people were expecting an open trial of the tyrant?

[Ionescu] We did not have the time. There was too great a danger of attack by the fanatics I mentioned. They were very well informed as to where the captured dictator was, and would probably have carried out a massacre while attempting to transport him somewhere. The death toll would have been too great. Other members of the Ceausescu clan and his close associates will be tried in an open, public court. But on that occasion, I repeat, we had no choice.

[Correspondents' note] (A few hours later, a message from I. Iliescu, chairman of the Romanian National Salvation Front Council, to the people was to be published, announcing, in particular, the abolition of the death penalty.)

[Correspondents] So there are quite substantial forces opposing you?

[Ionescu] A dangerous alliance of special-purpose troops and some representatives of the security service who have not laid down their arms is opposing us.

[Correspondents] How many of them are there, in all?

[Ionescu] I cannot give a figure yet. But it is not a question of numbers, even a single terrorist who is very well armed and trained and has, thanks to the ramified system of underground passages, enhanced mobility, represents a serious danger. And at the moment, there are not just the odd one or two of these people.

[Correspondents] We have heard that Ceausescu had a wristwatch containing a radio transmitter which enabled terrorist groups to follow the movements of the arrested dictator.

[Ionescu] That is quite possible. Those who were dealing with the arrested people had a constant sense of a kind of armed "ring" around them.

[Correspondents] Is it true that the lawyer who took part in the trial of Ceausescu was shot by terrorists the next day?

[Ionescu] I have no such information. And how could they have identified him? You remember that the television pictures were taken with the utmost care, no faces were shown on screen. By his voice? Well, perhaps by his voice... The fact is that we are really dealing with fanatics who are prepared for anything. Recently two of them whom we had captured, when asked for whose sake they were continuing the struggle, stated that they had sworn to "fight to the death."

[Correspondents] One cannot help thinking that these people do, after all, have some kind of social base in the country...

[Ionescu] They have no kind of base. The whole country, from schoolchildren to the very old, feels nothing but hatred for the ousted clique. You yourselves have seen many citizens speaking on television.

[Correspondents] And are you convinced that all those who are today condemning the dictatorship are 100-percent sincere?

[Ionescu] Well, perhaps with the exception of the secret police.

[Correspondents] What about the employees of the state and economic apparatus which helped the tyrant to rule?

[Ionescu] Well, there may be two or three thousand workers who received certain benefits from the dictatorship which they have now lost. But even they, believe me, were dissatisfied with the regime. Because no one, I repeat, no one in the country was able to live and work normally or to show any initiative, no one even dared think independently.

[Correspondents] All the same, some people were running all this? It was not only the tyrant and his wife personally? And so they were to some extent satisfied with the existing state of affairs?

[Ionescu] There are, of course, nuances here that we are taking into account...

[Correspondents] Your main task for the immediate future?

[Ionescu] In particular, to get the economic mechanism moving. And thereby to release the energy of millions of people for free, creative labor.

[Correspondents] Do you have an outline of reforms in the economic sphere?

[Ionescu] Yes. First and foremost, the elimination of excessive centralism. We intend to look toward small enterprises, the production of the goods the people need, and the people who are capable of organizing this prdouction rapidly.

[Correspondents] Cooperatives? Individual labor activity?

[Ionescu] Precisely. The maximum economic flexibility.

[Correspondents] But obtaining reliable information as to what goods the people need more of or less of is only possible with the help of a developed market mechanism. Do you intend to create one?

[Ionescu] Yes, of course. Although this is no easy task, and cannot be accomplished overnight. In general we are obliged to do a great deal in a very short space of time. The separation of powers into legislative, executive, and judicial, so that power can never again be concentrated in one person's hands! And as you know, elections are scheduled for April. In those months really colossal work lies ahead in creating a democratic society in Romania.

[Correspondents] Is there not, though, a danger that under the influence of the economic difficulties that are inevitable in the initial period, the people will lean toward authoritarianism—demand a "firm hand"?

[Ionescu] It seems to me that a people who are capable of overcoming armed gangs with their bare hands will show courage and patience in this situation too. And how have we been living for the last few years? With no heat in our homes, with no light, with miserly food rations!.. I believe that the Romanian people's enormous moral and intellectual potential will enable them to overcome today's difficulties too. I believe the people will help us.

[Correspondents] What is your opinion of the humanitarian aid from abroad?

[Ionescu] Words cannot convey how grateful we are. But if you can, please write in your newspaper that we are coming up against a paradoxical difficulty: Our country's transportation system is not capable of "digesting" this aid that has poured in from abroad. Trains and truck trains are building up on the borders, and there is a danger that many products, particularly food, will simply not reach their destination. If possible, we would ask people to spread this aid, which we so badly need, over a period of time, so to speak.

[Correspondents] What do you wish IZVESTIYA's readers?

[Ionescu] I know you are a parliamentary newspaper. In that sense we are colleagues, in a way... May all your wishes come true in the New Year. May the impressive goals set by the USSR people's deputies, your Supreme Soviet, and the people of your great country be achieved.

PRAVDA Interviews Romania's Silviu Brucan

PM0201173590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
3 Jan 90 First Edition p 7

[Own correspondent V. Vedrashko dispatch under rubric "Our Interviews": "Upcoming Elections. S. Brucan, Member of National Salvation Front Executive Bureau Council, Replies to PRAVDA Correspondent's Questions"]

[Text] Bucharest, 2 Jan—Silviu Brucan, an eminent Romanian political scientist and diplomat, a scientist with a worldwide reputation, and a member of the National Salvation Front Executive Bureau Council, agreed to meet with two Soviet journalists, the PRAVDA and NOVOYE VREMYA correspondents, on on the very eve of the New Year.

Here is what he said in particular:

"The problem of Romania's ideological orientation has not yet been resolved. We believe that terms like socialism and communism have no foundation at all in Romania today. When you have a feudal-style superstructure [sverkhnadstroyechnaya struktura] similar to an absolute monarchy and an economy with a per capita national income which is 3-4 times less than in a number of European capitalist countries, the verbal attributes of a socialist state no longer have any meaning.

"It is, however, a substantial fact," Brucan declared, "that the National Salvation Front is a broad political organization with a left-wing orientation. The process of shaping different political parties is already under way outside the front's framework—yes, outside the front's framework. We believe that the more such parties exist, the better it will be. An election campaign lies ahead of us. The National Salvation Front will field its own candidates and will stand as a single organization. We must learn democracy, having crystallized a new concept of social development. We will proceed on the basis of social reality..."

PRAVDA's correspondent asked:

"Many Communist Party veterans, honest people who are devoted to the ideals of communism, are unwilling to yield their positions and be associated with that section of the party which stained itself with conformism during the dictatorship years. They wish to find a method of expressing their views and declaring their presence. Can it be expected that a force which could play a constructive part in Romania's renewal could emerge on this healthy basis from among the former Communist Party?"

"I think that the healthy forces which used to belong to the party have found their place, now they are outside it, within the front's framework at all levels—from the center down to judet and enterprise level. As far as I personally am concerned, I engaged in protest actions against Ceausescu's policy on several occasions in the last few years.

"But these steps produced no changes within the party. Obviously the repressive apparatus was only too efficient, keeping people in a state of fear. It was then that I understood that there was nothing for me to do in the Romanian Communist Party. This is what I think about genuine, devoted Communists: There is nothing left for them to do but act. They can take part in the elections."

S. Brucan also answered a question about who is currently doing what about the elaboration of an economic reform program.

"I must tell you this: Economic reform is not on the agenda in Romania today. The country is living through economic chaos. And chaos cannot be reformed. First and foremost, we need to determine the reality. Look here: It was said that the grain harvest produced more than 60 million tonnes. We have succeeded in discovering only about 17 million tonnes.

"Agriculture is a topic in itself. Small producers, while controlling 12 percent of arable land (this included the personal plots of cooperative peasants and agricultural workers), were providing the country with 40 to 50 percent of its meat, milk, fruit, and vegetables. Instead of drawing the logical conclusion from this, Ceausescu set about wrecking small-scale agricultural production. The result was the food shortages of recent years."

On the first evening of the New Year Brucan gave a long interview to Romanian television in which he spoke about his work in the underground and the repressive methods of the state security apparatus. The dialogue was open, its participants spoke about the onset of the period of "Romanian glasnost." The answer to the question: "Why was it necessary to eliminate so swiftly Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, detained while trying to flee the country?" was given in precisely this spirit.

"On Sunday 24 December the revolution had reached a critical point," Brucan replied. "It became obvious that the army was not discharging its mission, while the terrorists were expanding their combat operations. Steps to bring about a breakthrough in the development of events were needed. Questions of jurisprudence receded into the background. Military tasks were the priority. Especially since the state security forces knew in which garrison the arrested dictator and his wife were being held. Attacks to liberate them were mounted. Thus a danger of the restoration of the regime became obvious. I have no doubt that if that had happened, there would have been a bloodbath involving hundreds of thousands of new casualties. Immediately after the execution of Ceausescu and the televising of the videofilm about his last moments, the terrorist resistence subsided. The desired result had been achieved."

A woman journalist representing Romanian television asked for an explanation for the swift and radical measures implemented in the country by the new authorities. Brucan replied:

"The revolution is going to be successful only if it manages to satisfy people's most urgent needs without delay. Food, light, heat, medicine, and transport—these are our priorities. Fortunately, people are able to see for themselves that life is improving. Major economic and political problems will be the subject of a serious analysis and will be resolved gradually."

Romanian Spokesman Cited on Communist Party

LD0201195590 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Bucharest January 2 TASS—Rank-and-file members of the Romanian Communist party, which numbered more than three million members before the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, do not identify themselves with Ceausescu's name and deeds, Foreign Ministry spokesman Constantin Girbea told a news conference.

"Many party activists and secretaries of party committees at enterprises were among the first to take the side of the people and led the struggle against stooges of the Ceausescu clan," he said.

Girbea said more and more parties are being formed in the country, yet none of them has been officially registered so far.

Speaking about the Communist Party, he said "It is difficult now to say anything about its future." However, he added, "Many communists, who have united in various initiative groups, have proposed convening an emergency congress for the party to dissolve itself and form a renewed party."

Girbea said all members of the former Political Executive Committee of the Communist Party Central Committee had been arrested.

Asked about the situation in the country, the spokesman said the situation in Bucharest was becoming calmer. There was no shooting in the capital last night, yet the situation "cannot be described as completely normal."

Many terrorists are still in the hiding. Therefore, Girbea added, security forces loyal to the Ceausescu clan may create new seats of resistance.

Romanian Law on Party Registration Adopted

PM0201165390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Jan 90 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "On Principles of Pluralism. New Political Structure Taking Shape in Romania"]

[Text] Bucharest, 1 Jan—On New Year's Eve the Romanian National Salvation Front Council adopted a law on the registration and activity of political parties and public organizations. The law proclaims freedom to form political parties in the country with the exception of parties of a fascist character or ones which propagandize concepts which run counter to Romania's state and legal system.

The aims of political parties and public organizations, the document points out, must be founded on respect for the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and on adherence to democracy with a view to ensuring the rights and freedoms of all citizens of the Romanian nation.

The law provides that regular servicemen, civilian personnel of the Ministries of National Defense and Internal Affairs, judges, prosecutors, diplomats, and also employees of Free Romanian Television cannot be members of political parties.

A "public dialogue group" has been created in Bucharest. It sets the task of highlighting the paths of the future development and organization of Romanian society on the basis of values common to all mankind and of human rights and freedoms. This was announced at a news conference held here by the organizers of the group, which includes well-known representatives of the Romanian intelligentsia—Doina Cornea, Mircea Dinescu, and others.

The "public dialogue group" is to be a laboratory in which economists, sociologists, historians, theologians, ecologists, and writers will together seek ways to resolve the problems facing Romanian society, the declaration disseminated here points out. It is an independent group unconnected with any political grouping, and it rejects any cooperation with those who supported the former regime.

Neagu Udroiu has been appointed the new general director of AGERPRES, the Romanian press agency. An AGERPRES report points out that Udroiu worked for a long time on the editorial boards of a number of Romanian newspapers and in radio and television, and from 1979 he was general secretary of AGERPRES.

Differing Views Noted in Romania, RCP Congress

LD0201214390 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 2 Jan 90

[From "Vremya" newscast; video report on situation in Romania by correspondents V. Lyubovtsev, V. Zheleznyak, and V. Voronov]

[Text] [Lyubovtsev] How crushed this country was yesterday! How humiliated it was by decades of dictatorship! Now a great deal is known about that. But what will it be like tomorrow? Different approaches are manifesting themselves here. Differing views and stands, at times mutually exclusive, are clashing. More and more new parties are being formed, public unions of a social democratic orientation, or peasant, religious, ecological.

Almost every day at the Bucharest press center—almost 1,500 journalists from all corners of the world are accredited here, incidentally—the new parties are holding their press conferences. They expound their views, their evaluations of the situation, and their plans for the future. Here you see, for example, a press conference held by the group for public dialogue which consists of many eminent figures in Romanian culture. Their goal, as has been announced, is not to be the center of power, but the center of influence in country.

Unfortunately, such a meeting with the press has not been held, nor is it likely to be, by the Romanian Communist Party [RCP], which was recently the only party in the country. A statement has been published in the newspapers by their group—the initiative group of communists who were RCP members—which states that the dictator Ceausescu, having subordinated the party, compromised it in the face of the people and distorted the very essence of socialist ideals. The initiative group of communists has proposed that an extraordinary RCP congress be convened urgently and that a decision be adopted there to dissolve the party.

But what do other communists think about that, first and foremost the veterans of the RCP? (Nicolae Muraro), a party member since 1930, speaks:

[Begin Muraro recording] I personally completely support and am in agreement with the program of the National Salvation Front. At the same time, it seems to me that the group of party staff acted correctly in proposing convening an extraordinary congress of the party which will be the only one to have the right to decide what will happen to the party in the future. I believe that we will have to pursue the course of dissolving it, working out a new program, new rules in order for the party to be regenerated, thus restoring its former revolutionary traditions, its revolutionary spirit, its contacts with the masses based on truth, and to sweep away all the lies, all that falsification that was introduced by the Ceausescu clan and its stooges. [end recording]

Special 'Bucharest Calling' Feature Aired

LD2912202789

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1730 GMT on 29 December broadcasts a 25-minute "special feature" entitled "Bucharest Calling," which was prepared by Romanian radio correspondents. This feature was broadcast in place of the scheduled "International Situation: Questions and Answers," and was introduced by an announcer.

The program opens with Romanian Radio's call sign, followed by the sign on: "Hello! Long live liberty! Nicolae Dumitru, editor of the program from Bucharest, whose voice you have probably recognized from previous programs, is speaking to you. My voice has not changed, but my tone has, as has what I will tell you, dear friends, from now on. I will tell you only the truth about Romania, the truth about our people, not the embellished truth or half-truth, as was the cases in previous programs. I am telling you the truth, freely and without fear." Dumitru promises listeners "extracts from reality," in the hope that "they will create for you a clear picture of what is happening in Romania now—and what is happening is a revolution."

There follows a recording of the song, "Romania, Awake From the Dead Hibernation Into Which the Barbarian Tyrants Have Cast You," which, an announcer explains, became the anthem of "the Romanian revolution of 1989," although it was composed in the 19th Century. Dumitru adds, "Our people used to sing that song, standing up as a united, firm front against their enslavers. The present revolution bears the stamp of that continuity, when the people determined their destiny and became the creators of their history. Evidence of this was the unfolding of the December events in Romania, which led to our revolution."

Dumitru and the unidentified announcer proceed to tell the story of the revolution, beginning with the "bloody crushing of the insurgents in Timisoara on 17 December." Ceausescu is referred to throughout the account as "the tyrant" or "the dictator." The report recalls the imposition of the state of emergency in Timisoara, the Bucharest rally at which Ceausescu sought to justify the crackdown, and the introduction of a nationwide state of emergency the next day. Defense Minister Vasile Milea's death is alluded to as follows: "The minister of the armed forces, who refused to give the army the order to open fire, was declared a traitor to the motherland by the dictator."

The account relates how the army joined forces with the people. "The population and the army fraternized. People shouted, 'The army is with us! Long live liberty! Down with the dictator!' But the dictator and his odious wife fled shamefully." The report refers to the radio and television studios as a "nationwide rostrum for the revolution," recounts the formation of the National Salvation Front on 22 December, and summarizes the front's 10-point program.

The capture of the Ceausescus is recounted: "The odious couple tried to flee from the rage of the people—to get abroad where there is an enormous fortune in banks, more than $1 billion. But, as is known, the people found that odious couple and their stooges; and, with the assistance of members of the patriotic guard of the armed forces, they were caught." The charges of which the Ceausescus were convicted by the extraordinary military tribunal are summarized. Dumitru continues, "The sentence was carried out. He who had relied on bullets received the well-deserved bullet, and we hope that the following inscription will be placed at the spot where the sentence was executed: 'The personality cult is buried here forever. The personality cult and tyranny on Romanian soil are buried forever. This is in the name of those who gave their lives for the victory of our revolution, for the happy future of the present and future generations. Hundreds of thousands of people, who came out without interruption, day and night, onto the streets to defend the achievements of the revolution with their own bodies, fought in the name of that future'."

Recordings are then played of interviews conducted with participants in the fighting. They speak in Romanian, with the announcers' Russian translation overlaid. Gunfire is clearly audible in the background. They describe their experiences and speak of their determination to defend liberty and the revolution.

The remainder of the program is an account of how the country is returning to normal, quoting and summarizing previously broadcast statements by Petre Roman and Ion Iliescu on the tasks facing Romania. The report mentions that "the National Salvation Front Council has cancelled a number of the dictator's laws which encroached upon human rights, including the laws on the basis of which Romanian villages and towns were destroyed in the name of the so-called systematization of territories, the odious law on the so-called scientific feeding of the people, the clause in the penal code on abortion, and so on and so forth."

Following the summary of the country's situation, the announcers attempt to characterize "the peculiarities of our revolution." Dumitru gives this opinion: "The answer is clear: It is a popular revolution carried out by the people and predominantly with the participation of the young. It was not a coup d'etat with the involvement of any foreign state. Our revolution has put an end to such paradoxical phenomena as the existence of a communist party led by some kind of medieval monarchy, or such a paradox as the existence of a society with socialist infrastructures but a medieval superstructure personified by the dictatorial Ceausescu regime. The new revolution has also created a watershed in the position of the person. Now, the person is not there for the state, but the state for the person."

The positive international response to the changes in Romania is mentioned approvingly, reference is made to Gorbachev's and Ryzhkov's messages of congratulation and the former's telephone conversation with Iliescu. "Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev also telephoned Ion Iliescu personally and expressed the solidarity of the Soviet people and the Soviet Union with the Romanian revolution." The aid pouring in from many countries is also praised.

The program is concluded with solemn orchestral music and the announcers saying: "That ends the program from Bucharest, capital of free Romania. Good-bye! Long live liberty! Long live friendship and peace.

Polish Sejm 'Drastically' Amends Constitution Law

LD3012135189 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Warsaw December 30 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Valentin Volkov: Poland's Parliament, the Sejm, drastically amended the state and socio-political setup of Poland at its three-day session which ended late on Friday.

By a vote of 374-1 with 11 abstentions deputies approved a law on amending the constitution of the country. The move signals the first step toward drafting a new fundamental law to seal the sweeping changes in socio-political and economic life.

The parliament changed the name of the state replacing the Polish People's Republic with the Republic of Poland. Represented on its national emblem will be the white eagle with the crown against the red-colour background.

The republic of Poland is a democratic state ruled by law and implementing the principles of social justice, the amended constitution of the republic of Poland reads. The supreme authority in the country belongs to the people.

In line with the approved law the first two chapters of the constitution converning the political and socio-economic structure of the country were deleted. They said, in part, that the Polish People's Republic is a socialist state in which power belongs to the working people of cities and villages and the Polish United Workers' Party is the leading political force of society in building socialism.

The parliament also dropped the clauses that the socialist economic system based on socialised means of production and socialist relations of production form the basis of the socio-economic setup off the Polish People's Republic.

Instead of these two clauses numbering 19 articles the Sejm approved several fundamental notes concerning the more general principles of the state's political and socio-economic structure.

It is recorded alongside the afore-mentioned provisions that political parties are united on the principles of voluntariness and equalaity of the citizens of the Republic of Poland to influence by democratic methods the formation of the state's policy.

A report by the Sejm Legislative Commission, which discussed the draft law, emphasises that dropping from the constitution the provisions on the foundations of the socio-economic setup is done in accordance with a new economic order whose foundations are laid down in 11 earlier approved financial and economic laws introducing the market principles in the economy.

At today's session the Upper Chamber of the Polish Parliament, the Senate, approved the law on amending Poland's constitution, which was adopted by the Sejm on Friday.

The amendments in the constitution will enter into force following the signing of the law by the president.

IZVESTIYA on Changes

PM0101123190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 5

[L. Toporkov report: "Poland—Farewell Both Joyful and Sad"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the eve of the New Year holiday the Republic's Sejm urgently discussed 11 government bills designed to legally ensure the victory of the new economic relations. Time will tell if the adopted laws bring happiness and social justice for the working man.

Of course, the Sejm tackles not only economic problems. For instance, the Sejm's legislative commission will be discussing a proposal to change the country's Constitution. According to this proposal, soon Poland will no longer be called the Polish People's Republic. Rzeczpospolita Polska—such is the proposed name. The Republic of Poland, that is. There will be a change in the country's coat of arms—the eagle dons a crown. A trifling matter, the crown, one might think—but appeasing the ambitions of those people who yearn for the past will cost the treasury an enormous amount, because it is necessary to change a great deal—from the buttons on all the uniforms to the institutional seal and the banknotes. The fundamental law is losing its articles which give a person the right to work and to participate in the administration of the state. The government newspaper RZECZPOSPOLITA, without beating about the bush, explains the aim of this alteration of the Constitution as a "change of system."

The farewell to the old year which brought fundamental changes to Poland's life is thus becoming farewell to the Polish People's Republic. This gladdens some and grieves others. All the same, two generations of Poles have grown up under the wing of People's Poland. And not all of them consider that, for them, it was like a stepmother.

Rakowski, Walesa View Progress, Coming Year

PM0101111590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Rakowski, Walesa Talk"]

[Text] Warsaw, 31 Dec—A meeting has taken place here between M. Rakowski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] Central Committee, and the chairman of the "Solidarity" trade union, L. Walesa.

During their conversation they exchanged opinions on the progress of the democratization process in Poland and the problems connected with the reform of the country's economy. Rakowski informed Walesa about the preparations for the 11th PZPR Congress and the constituent congress of the new party of Polish left-wing forces; Walesa talked about preparations for a "Solidarity" congress.

In Poland there is every possibility of getting through the present unusually difficult period—difficult for all working people—and really emerging in calm waters, Rakowski said following the meeting. It is important that the ship of Poland negotiate this turbulent passage.

For his part Walesa stressed that there are apprehensions concerning the coming year: fears regarding the consequences of price rises, fears regarding the accord reached. But at the same time there is hope that by combined efforts it will be possible to resolve the complex problems confronting Poland.

1989 Relations With Poland Discussed

LD3012181989 Moscow International Service in Polish 1500 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Semin Afonin commentary]

[Text] Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. I think that this year went by very quickly, although this just might be my personal impression. Yet again, pausing briefly at the threshold of 1990 we are looking back to evaluate the road we passed. Such is human nature. Let us cast a look back to think what the past year was like in the sphere of contacts between our nations, what new has appeared in our bilateral relations.

I think what is most important is that in our relations there triumphs a new political mentality, not just in words but in fact. Changes that occurred in Poland when the rudder of power was taken over by the government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki did not cause an allergy in the Soviet Union, as Eduard Shevardnadze put it. What is more, there is no doubt that these changes proved clearly that at the basis of Soviet-Polish relations are the vital interests of our nations and this principle is more important than political trends.

At present we are linked by more than just a conventional feeling of unity in recognizing the obsolete dogmas of [words indistinct] socialism. What consolidates us is a creative search for the ways of development that are most suitable for each country. We are also not disturbed by the fact that these ways are not always the same. Nevertheless, they will finally lead to the common goal, a democratic state with the rule of law and the commonwealth of social justice. This is not a speculative conclusion. When visiting Poland and meeting friends and colleagues there, I became convinced that this was the case. Perhaps some will think my conclusion too optimistic. I do not forget that the histories of our nations are complex and our past was not easy and was complicated. All this needs to be explained, but at the same time we should remember something else: as Adam Michnik put it succinctly in one of his interviews, against us is not the fact that we are together but the fact that we have been together for a long time but in the wrong way. Today when we are together shedding the chains of the Stalinist remnants, we should unite authentically. To this end it is essential to have mutual understanding. I am convinced that we have reached such an understanding during the visit of Tadeusz Maziowiecki in the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev stressed during the meeting with the Polish premier that we can have different views, we have different life experiences, different views on the world and different political views, but the awareness of the most important fact, namely, that the Soviet Union and Poland are jointly interested in good-neighborly relations, creates the possibility for joint understanding with regard to a wide range of issues, starting with philosophical and political issues and ending with purely practical questions of cooperation.

For his part Tadeusz Mazowiecki confirmed interest in developing universal cooperation between Poland and USSR and expanding its scale and its social foundations. This desire finds understanding with the Soviet nation, more so because in this work we are starting up from more than just a beginning. The foundations for the qualitatively new relations between our nations were created earlier. They were speeded up by the realistic processes in our lives: Soviet reconstruction and renewal in Poland. This is what caused the leadership of the two countries to face the necessity of creating fuller conditions for a more (?permanent) Polish-Soviet rapprochement.

This process is continuing. Our contacts have become less and less for show; they have on the other hand, become more frank. We have stopped avoiding acute issues. Together with Poles we are awaiting an eventual publication of the verdict on the matter of Katyn, for instance. We know that in many Polish and Soviet hearts there was a painful response to the insult of the memory of Lenin at Nowa Huta.

In conclusion, not everything is rosy yet. Nevertheless 1989 will remain in our memory most as a year that encouraged closer relations between us. This is quite a lot.

West Europe

FRG's Genscher Discusses Soviet Ties

PM0201121390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 90 Second Edition p 7

[Interview in Bonn with H.D. Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and foreign minister, by own correspondent Ye. Grigoryev: "Chance for the European Home"; date not given]

[Text] Bonn, 1 Jan—Question: What, in your view, was 1989 like? Which events particularly characterized it and were significant?

Answer: The year 1989 was a year of European self-awareness, of a turn toward freedom, human rights, and democracy. President Gorbachev gave all Europeans a signal of hope by inspiring the process of reforms in the countries of central and East Europe. This year has brought Europe and the whole world closer to peace, disarmament, and cooperation. The destruction of the "Iron Curtain," the processes of democratization in the Warsaw Pact states, and regarding German-Soviet relations, the joint statement signed during President Gorbachev's visit to Bonn, have been particularly important in 1989.

Question: How do you assess the year's results in relations between the USSR and the FRG?

Answer: German-Soviet relations have acquired a new quality as a result of the joint statement built on the foundations of the Moscow Treaty. This must now be used to further deepen and develop them and also to strengthen their positive influence on the situation in Europe.

Question: Your hopes and expectations in connection with the new year, 1990?

Answer: In this century the world and Europe above all have experienced the most dreadful wars and the most dreadful crimes. On the threshold of 1990 a chance is opening to realize the hopes of mankind for a better future in the last decade of the century. This is primarily a European chance.

In 1990 I expect the completion of the Soviet-U.S. talks on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive nuclear arms and the conclusion of the first disarmament treaty in the sphere of conventional arms in Vienna. I hope, further, for an agreement on the worldwide prohibition of chemical weapons.

A summit meeting of the CSCE participant states, which President Gorbachev has proposed, would be called upon to strengthen the Helsinki process, to give it a new impetus, and, at the same time, to create preconditions for further talks on reducing conventional arms. All talks must also be aimed at cooperative security structures throughout Europe.

In addition, I expect the process of integration in the EC and the development of increasingly close ties between the EC and the European CEMA states to continue. The two existing alliances will continue to play an important role, but it will grow increasingly in the spheres of politics, disarmament, and cooperation. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to the EC and NATO created good preconditions for this. Within the channel of this all-European development and the Helsinki process I hope for the start of a German-German contractual association. Joint efforts in the interests of all Europe are needed to deepen relations between the FRG and the USSR.

The year 1990 must be a year of cooperation and disarmament, and the nineties a decade of peaceful European order and the common European home.

Bahr on New European Security System Needed

90UI0245A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 52, 27 Dec 89 p 9

[Report on interview with Egon Bahr by correspondent Valetin Zapevalov: "Seven Questions—Seven Answers"]

[Text] Any Soviet response to the development of events in the GDR is now a subject of further analysis in Bonn. Which can truly be said about "Shevardnadze's seven questions," as the Soviet foreign minister's speech to members of the Europarliament in Brussels has been called in the FRG. Not one politician has passed them by.

Egon Bahr represents the opposition Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] and is a member of the party presidium. At the start of the 1970's he established the FRG's good-neighbor relations with the socialist countries, for which he earned the honorary title of "architect of the Ostpolitik." Bahr's words have weight in the FRG still. He was an author of the German part of the new SPD program, which the party congress adopted last week in West Berlin. For this reason it was he that I asked to comment on the questions heard in Brussels.

[Zapevalov] So where are the political, legal and material guarantees that German unity will not engender a threat to the national security of other states?

[Bahr] These guarantees are afforded by the two blocs—NATO and the Warsaw Pact—which exist at the present time. Following the dissolution of these organizations and the creation of a European system of security, which will come to replace them, such guarantees will be afforded by the new system of security. Germany would have there merely the rights and possibilities which this security system affords. I could, however, imagine that in the transitional period foreign forces might, to reassure everyone, remain on German territory.

[Zapevalov] Would such a hypothetical Germany be prepared to recognize the existing borders in Europe and renounce territorial claims?

[Bahr] The answer to this question must be an unambiguous "yes." Until there is this unambiguous "yes," there will be no German unity.

[Zapevalov] What place would this national German formation occupy in the current military-political structures in Europe?

[Bahr] I have already answered this question in principle at the very outset of our talk. I do not consider the possibility of implementing the process of state unity realistic while the two blocs exist.

[Zapevalov] If German unity is realized, what will its military potential, military doctrine and structure of the armed forces be? Will it be prepared to undertake demilitarization, accept neutrality and change in principle its economic and other relations with East Europe?

[Bahr] An interesting question. In my view, the following situation should take shape after Vienna-I: the impossibility of surprise attack, purely defensive structures and a maximally low level of arms. This would mean also determination of the numbers of forces and arms for both German states. A state of neutrality is precluded since compulsory limits of their military power will be determined for each country in a European security system.

[Zapevalov] What will be the attitude toward the presence on German soil of the allied forces, the continued activity of the military missions and the four-party agreement of 1971?

[Bahr] As long as two German states exist and in a confederation period also, the two blocs will exist between them and the four-party agreement on West Berlin will remain in force.

[Zapevalov] How does the possible creation of such a German formation fit in with the Helsinki process, and would it contribute to development in the direction of a surmounting of the division of Europe?

[Bahr] Such a development could speed up the Helsinki process. This means that German development would be a part of the Helsinki process.

[Zapevalov] Will both German states be prepared to take account of the interests of the European states?

[Bahr] To exercise their right to self-determination in the interests of Germans in accord with their neighbors.

A European security system would be a collective pact with the corresponding equal rights and duties for all its participants. Such a European security system is important for peace in Europe. It would mean also that Germany would thereby finally obtain its peace treaty.

Envoy Reads Gorbachev New Year's Message to UK

LD3012064589 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0625 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Report by Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev has sent Britain a warm New Year message, extending his "sincere best wishes of happiness, prosperity and peace to the people of the United Kingdom".

The message was in response to an Independent Television [ITV] News and London Weekend television viewers' poll voting him a "statesman of the decade".

The Soviet leader has also been pronounced winner of a special "hope for the future" award at a gala ceremony at the London Palladium, which will be broadcast on the ITV Network on New Year's Eve.

Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin received the award on behalf of Mr Gorbachev and read out this message from the Russian leader: "I wish to express my thanks to all those who have placed my name among the personalities distinguished for their contribution to world peace and understanding between nations.

"On a personal level, I am naturally delighted and value this a great deal.

"However, I would like to express my deep conviction that this choice reflects the attitude of the British people towards the policy of perestroyka in my country, and the tremendous changes taking place, both in the Soviet Union and in the world at large.

"These changes are the result of new thinking. They come from taking stock of all problems that the whole of humanity is vitally interested in solving."

Mr Gorbachev continued: "Perestroyka and glasnost—these new approaches of ours—have become familiar and understandable to the peoples of our planet, for they contain an answer to the burning issues of the modern age: How to shape our future, how to act together in our common home and how to find a joint solution to the problems which the progress of civilisation itself has presented for humankind.

"I view your choice as a sign of recognition that new political thinking has taken root in the minds of people, not only in our country, but everywhere in the world.

"As we approach the new year, I would like to extend my sincere best wishes of happiness, prosperity and peace to the people of the United Kingdom, towards whom my compatriots traditionally have had very warm feelings."

Finnish Party Leader Visits CPSU Headquarters

PM0301085590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Ties Are Developing"]

[Text] A conversation took place 19 December at the CPSU Central Committee International Department with I. Suominen, chairman of the National Coalition Party and Finnish minister of trade and industry.

Questions relating to the development of the situation in Europe, Soviet-Finnish cooperation, and contacts between the CPSU and the National Coalition Party were discussed.

Political & Social

Azerbaijani Convoy Fired Upon in NKAO 2 Jan

NC0301075890 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 3 Jan 90

[From the republican press review]

[Text] The newspapers report on an incident in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. Tension escalated in the NKAO early in the year. A convoy of vehicles carrying Azerbaijani passangers, which was escorted by the internal forces on the Agdam-Shusha highway, was stoned and fired upon by the residents of Stepanakert, the capital of the NKAO, on 2 January. The militia [words indistinct] opened fire in self-defense. Five residents of Stepanakert were wounded in the clash, and one of them later died. Three buses were damaged and a vehicle was set on fire. A number of the passengers were hurt in the stoning.

About 5,000 people gathered in Shusha after the convoy arrived in the town. They said that they were ready to (?react). Thanks to the measures that were taken and to the effort made by the internal forces and the troops, the dispute was obstructed.

The procuracy has launched a criminal investigation into the incident. The situation in Shusha and Stepanakert is being controlled.

Four Injured

LD0201181990 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1745 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Stepanakert, 2 Jan (TASS)—The beginning of the New Year in Nagorno-Karabakh has been marked by a heightening of tension. Today, while a column of vehicles carrying Azeri passengers and accompanied by internal troops was proceeding along the Agdam-Shusha route, it was stoned and fired upon by townspeople in the oblast center of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. For purposes of self-defense, militia trainees opened fire in retaliation. During the exchange of fire four inhabitants of Stepanakert suffered injuries, one of whom died. Three buses were damaged, and an army vehicle was set on fire. Several people in the buses were injured. After the column arrived in Shusha, some 5,000 people gathered there, ready to go and "settle scores." The measures adopted and the efforts of the internal troops made it possible to avert conflict.

The oblast's procuracy has lodged a criminal case in connection with the incident. The situation in Stepanakert and Shusha is being monitored.

Extremists Try To Destabilize Nakhichevan Situation

LD0201190990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Jan 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrades, we have just received one more report. Unprecedented barbaric actions to destabilize the situation on the Nakhichevan section of the Soviet-Iranian border were conducted under the leadership of persons of extremist inclinations on the territory of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic from 31 December 1989 to 2 January 1990. They were preceded by instigatory activity by irresponsible elements, which are counting on using such actions to complicate even further the already-tense situation in the republic and in the whole Transcaucasian region.

Engineering and technical installations, communications and signaling lines, watchtowers, and border signs were burned and destroyed over more than 137 km of the Nakhichevan section of the Soviet-Iranian border as a result of the excesses committed by the crowd organized by these irresponsible elements. Some of the crowd were stupefied by spirits and narcotics. There were threats to set fire to the border posts and mete out punishment to their personnel and members of the families of servicemen in the border troops. Defiant actions aimed at provoking retaliatory use of force were undertaken. The material damage inflicted on the state amounts to more than R1 million.

Attempts are constantly being made to cross the border onto Iranian territory without checks. The operations of the border services have been made extremely difficult as a result of these actions. Worried by such a development of events, Iranian border commissars protested, pointing out that the extremist elements' actions are offensive to their country and considerably complicate the situation on the border. They requested that effective measures be adopted to stop the excesses and prevent more serious consequences.

That is a TASS report.

Places in Yerevan Named After Sakharov

LD0201133990 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Excerpt] A square and a street in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, have been named after Andrey Sakharov. Now a research center is also named after him and a Sakharov scholarship has been instituted. It has also been decided to put up a monument to Sakharov in Yerevan. [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan Local Election Results Outlined

PM0301144590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Results of Elections in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 2 Jan—The results of the local soviet elections held 24 December 1989 have been summed up.

The election campaign took place on a new legal basis, in a situation of openness and glasnost. Labor collectives, public organizations, and all strata of the population actively participated in it. Elections were held in 17 oblast, 209 rayon, 84 city, 210 settlement, and 2,443 village and aul soviets. The republic's territory was divided into 72,997 electoral okrugs.

Some 87 percent of the registered voters took part in the ballot.

Of the deputies elected 45.9 percent are workers or kolkhoz members, 30.2 percent are women, 51.7 percent are CPSU members or candidate members, and 10 percent are members of the All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League. More than two-thirds of those newly elected were not local soviet deputies in the previous convocation.

In 25 electoral okrugs the elections were ruled void because fewer than half the voters took part in the ballot. In 15 okrugs the elections were ruled invalid because the Law on Elections had been broken. In the republic as a whole runoffs will be held in 914 electoral okrugs, and there will be repeat elections in 2,273 electoral okrugs and 8 settlement or village soviets.

New Kazakh Youth Leader Elected

LD0301151390 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Alma-Ata January 3 TASS—By TASS correspondent Olga Babiy:

A regular plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Young Communist League (YCL) today elected a new YCL leader for the three months that remain before a congress of the Kazakhstan YCL convenes.

The first secretary of the YCL Central Committee was elected for the first time on an alternative basis.

Six candidates presented their programmes of activity. More than two thirds of those present voted for Imangaly Tasmagambetov, an informal youth leader who moved to the forefront during the years of perestroyka. He succeeded Sergazi Kondybayev, who was transferred to a party job.

The programme of the 33-year old teacher is oriented towards free thinking and independence in this youth organisation, the republic's largest.

He believes that the YCL should prioritise ethical values over political ones. The YCL should help discover the talents and abilities of youth and awaken in everyone an interest in their native language, traditions and culture.

It should involve the young in the resolution of major problems such as ecology, mutual understanding, and health. Herein is the essence of a youth policy, he believes.

Tasmangambetov grew up in a large Kazakh family where there were five children. His father is an economist and mother a doctor. All are exceptionally musical. As a bard, Tasmangambetov is quite well known in Kazakhstan. He plays piano and guitar and is fond of singing.

As a geography and biology teacher at a large rural school, he won the hearts of young people through his songs and warm character and became an informal leader.

He was at first offered a job in the YCL district committee and then elected to the Guriyev Regional YCL Committee where he displayed considerable organisational abilities and initiative during the preparation of "The Caspian —The Sea of Friendship" international festival.

An action programme suggested by him accords with the present-day aspirations of young people. This is why it received massive support from YCLers.

Kazakhstan Party Examines Blank Spots in History

LD0201170690 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 89 p 1

["In the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] Being guided by the decisions of the 27th CPSU congress and the 19th CPSU Conference, the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee is continuing active work on the elimination of "blank spots," and the reappraisal of the phenomena and tendencies of the spiritual life and historical past of Kazakhstan.

Recently a proposal Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee Party Institute was accepted regarding the publication of individual documents from the stocks held in the party archive. A special commission has been set up which is empowered to deal with all the issues connected with allowing researchers access to a concrete category of documents, the release of these documents for use in the leading room or for publication in the party press in the established order.

The results of the work of the the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee commission set up earlier to examine a number of decisions by the Communist Party Bolshevik Central Committee and the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee on issues on literature and arts have been examined. In these decisions, the works of some culture workers and some individual folkloric works were appraised subjectively from positions of crude sociologism. The Central Committee agreed to their cancellation.

Tajik KGB on 'Hostile' Afghan Activity

90US0326A Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 5 Dec 89 p 4

[Article by L. Kolbin and Kh. Yusupov: "Jihad for Export"]

[Text] A press conference was held in the Committee for State Security [KGB] of the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. A system of measures conducted to stop hostile activity that was directed against the republic from abroad became the property of journalists and glasnost.

...Janges Davlatmad, the son of Rustam, was forcibly taken to Pakistan from a little village, as he himself admits, by people who were unknown to him. After completing appropriate training in a camp of opposition forces near Peshawar, he returned to Afghanistan after a certain time, now armed as a mujahidin. But not to his native village, but to the extreme north of the country, closer to the border with the USSR.

And not "to defend his own country," as he was assured, because the entire limited contingent of Soviet forces had already departed Afghanistan, but to penetrate the neighboring state in an illegal way and to carry out subversive activity there. Together with Abduraim, the son of Khorkash, they crossed the state border of the Soviet Union more than once or twice. And not they alone....

A number of formations of the armed opposition in the northern provinces of Afghanistan, right on the border with the USSR, are engaged in hostile activity that is directed against our republic. What does it consist of? The purpose is to establish an underground organization on the territory of the republic, which includes Soviet citizens also, and the organization of a "jihad," which, as is known, denotes "holy war" in translation, a war with unbelievers, and the establishment of an Islamic government in Tajikistan.

Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan moved across the border and carried religious literature of an anti-Soviet content, money, drugs, and weapons. The KGB and the border guards took steps to stop this. Several criminal cases were brought. Material on a number of them has already been submitted to the court.

The specific organizers and participants in the hostile organization have already been established. It was headed by engineer Bashir and assistant engineer Mirmakhmad, deputy for subversive activity to the leader of one of the armed opposition groups of the IPA—Islamic Party of Afghanistan.

Tasks were performed by Afghan citizens who were suitably trained in Peshawar. A "corridor" was set up along the border by which liaison personnel, carrying special cargoes, repeatedly crossed over difficult sectors of the Pyandzh River.

The saboteurs were caught red-handed in the Moskovskiy Rayon, in the home of Azimov. The arresting group had to employ weapons.

V.V. Petkel, chairman of the KGB, remarked: I must say frankly that the military Afghan opposition is carrying out specific work against us. This began to be felt from the moment of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Incidents are developing along the entire border of the Khatlon Oblast. In 2 years, there were more than 100 border violations, including those that occur on an everyday basis and for the purpose of sabotage. Two more hostile organizations are being investigated.

Afghans of the Bashir group who crossed the border tried to get Soviet citizens to betray their Motherland. For example, Zaripov and others were recruited by them—their names will not be revealed until the investigation is completed. Azimov, in whose home foreigners were arrested, was released for humane reasons—he is 65 years old, and he has 11 children. So-called preventive work was conducted with him and a number of other citizens.

Material evidence was laid out on tables in the conference hall—that which was taken from those who were arrested: Soviet-produced grenades, Chinese pistols and ammunition, Soviet and foreign currency, drugs of various kinds, lengths of expensive fabrics, portable dictaphones with recruitment recordings.... "Islam does not make peace with communism"—and approximately the same kind of ideological stuffing of books published abroad.

We have many questions concerning what the KGB is doing today. This press conference is an answer to one of them.

Georgian Supreme Soviet Session Opens 17 Nov

90US0263A Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA
in Russian 18 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[GRUZINFORM report on Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet session]

[Text] On 17 November in the hall of meetings of the republic Supreme Soviet the work of the 20th session of the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet 11th term began.

The session was opened by the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, Deputy N.I. Lagidze.

Those who gathered devoted a moment of silence to the memory of those who died in the tragic events on 9 April in Tbilisi and 15 July in Abkhazia, the victims of the natural disasters in Adzharia, and also the Deputies of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet D.D. Diasamidze, S.V. Durmishidze, G.N. Dzhibladze, and A.N. Glurdzhidze, who had died during the period since the 11th session.

A report from the mandate commission of the republic Supreme Soviet was presented by the Deputy Chairman, Deputy T.I. Khazaradze. He reported that on 27 August, 10 September, and 1 October in 10 electoral okrugs there had been elections to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to replace deputies who had left.

In keeping with the report from the mandate commission the authority of the newly elected deputies of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet was recognized: N.R. Natadze—from the Digomskiy electoral okrug number 99 in Mtskhetskiy Rayon, M.G. Fidanyana—from Aragvskiy electoral okrug number 142 in Akhalkalakskiy Rayon, A.G. Goreliya—from Mnglisskiy electoral okrug number 160 in Tetritskaroyskiy Rayon, M.Ya. Mamedova—from Kvemo-Bolnisskiy electoral okrug number 164 of Bolnisskiy Rayon, N.Z. Chavchavadze—from Kvarelskiy electoral okrug number 219 of Kvarelskiy Rayon, M.M. Korkashvili—from Maglakskiy electoral okrug number 273 from the city of Tskhaltubo, N.P. Mgaloblishvili—from Kalininskiy electoral okrug number 359 of the city of Sukhumi, D.A. Khakhutaishvili—from Kobuletskiy electoral okrug number 411 of Kobuletskiy Rayon, R.V. Gordeziani—from Akhalshenskiy electoral okrug number 419 of Khelvachaurskiy Rayon, and M.A. Gokhalashvili—from Tskhinvalskiy rural electoral okrug number 433 of Tskhinvalskiy Rayon.

The floor was turned over to the Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, Deputy N.A. Chitanava.

On instructions from the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, he brought up for the consideration of the session the application from O.Ye. Cherkeziya to be relieved of his duties as chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet at his personal request.

The session granted the request of O.Ye. Cherkeziya and relieved him of his duties as chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

At the request of Deputies E.N. Shengelaya and N.R. Natadze, O.Ye. Cherkeziya gave an explanation of his decision.

On behalf of the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, N.A. Chitanava made a proposal to elect as chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Givi Grigoryevich Gumbaridze—first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia.

The session unanimously adopted a decision to elect G.G. Gumbaridze chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

L.L. Gogoberidze, B.D. Gulua, T.M. Chkheidze, T.Ya. Uchaneishvili, G.A. Kancheli, and N.R. Natadze spoke about individual questions related to the procedure for electing the chairman of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, Chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, G.G. Gumbaridze spoke at the session.

Then the deputies approved the agenda for the session and the procedure for their work. The following issues were brought up for discussion:

1. Changes in the composition of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

2. The Georgian SSR draft law on changes and additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Georgian SSR.

3. The Georgian SSR draft law on elections of Georgian SSR people's deputies.

4. The Georgian SSR draft law on elections of people's deputies of local Georgian SSR soviets of people's deputies.

5. Information from work groups formed by the decree of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet of 20 June 1989.

6. Scheduling of elections of deputies of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, 12th term, and elections of local Georgian SSR soviets of people's deputies, 12th term.

7. The state plan for the economic and social development of the Georgian SSR for 1990 and the course of the implementation of the state plan in 1989.

8. The Georgian SSR state budget for 1990 and the report on the fulfillment of the state budget for 1988.

9. Information from the commission on questions of political and legal evaluation of the violation of the treaty between Georgian and Soviet Russian of 7 May 1920.

10. Conclusion of the commission created by the decree of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet of 17 April 1989 to investigate the circumstances in connection with the events of 9 April 1989 in Tbilisi.

11. The formation of new permanent commissions of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

12. The creation of the commission for the development of the law on referendum.

13. The commission for the development of the draft "Georgian SSR Law on Language."

14. The commission for the study of repeated complaints from groups of citizens.

15. The reorganization of the environmental protection service in the Georgian SSR.

16. The formation of an independent service for land use and land development in the republic.

17. Approval of the ukases of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

At the suggestion of Deputy E.N. Shengelaya, the point "Other" was placed on the agenda.

G.G. Gumbaridze, who was in charge of the session, reported to the deputies that on the eve of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet at their meeting they considered the question of the decisions of the 12th session of the soviet of people's deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast, 12th term. Because of the fact that the procedure for convening and conducting the session was grossly violated, and also that issues outside the competence of the oblast soviet were considered at it, the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, on the basis of point 10 of Article 115 of the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Georgian SSR, abolished as illegal the decisions of the 12th session of the soviet of people's deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast, 12th term.

The deputies began to discuss the first point on the agenda. A decision was made to remove from the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies B.I. Vashakidze, V.A. Kochoyan, D.V. Margvelidze, K.S. Mamedov, A.D. Zurabashvili, and D.I. Patiashvili. The following deputies were elected as members of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet: A.N. Tavkhelidze—president of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences, E.N. Shengelaya—first secretary of the board of the Union of Cinematographers of Georgia, V.R. Abzianidze—leader of a brigade of assembly workers of the Kutaisi housing construction combine, L.L. Gogoberidze—producer-director of the Gruziyafilm movie studio, D.A. Charkviani—director of the Sabchota Sakartvelo publishing house, G.D. Lordkipanidze—chairman of the board of the Georgian Union of Theater Workers.

A report on draft laws of the Georgian SSR concerning changes and additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Georgian SSR on elections of Georgian SSR people's deputies and elections of people's deputies of local soviets of the republic was presented by the Chairman of the commission for preparing these draft laws, G.G. Gumbaridze.

Then the deputies heard information from work groups formed by a decree of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet of 20 July 1989 concerning the work that had been done: For developing proposals concerning the introduction of the legal status of citizenship in the Georgian SSR, the conditions for USSR laws to be in effect on the territory of the Georgian SSR, the study of immigration processes in the republic, the listing of shortcomings and mistakes made in this area, the exercise of real sovereignty of the Georgian SSR, and questions of restoration of national troop formations and the serving of military service time of Georgian draftees on the territory of the republic, which was presented by Deputies V.A. Sharashenidze, A.I. Kavsadze, D.A. Charkviani, N.A. Lagidze, and the Chairman of the Georgian union of jurists, Z.M. Ratiani.

There were discussions on the report and information. Participating in them were Deputies E.D. Amashukeli, T.G. Lekishvili, N.A. Petriashvili, M.M. Khananashvili, N.M. Pankova, O.D. Kalandarishvili, N.R. Natadze, G.Z. Mirianashvili, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Lenin Communist Youth League S.Yu. Gogiberidze, Deputies A.K. Gagaishvili, I.I. Khutsishvili, N.Z. Chavchavadze, N.V. Gurgenidze, USSR People's Deputy M.I. Berdzenishvili, Chairman of the ispolkom [executive committee] of the Rustava city soviet of people's deputies T.O. Ddalakishvili, Deputies V.V. Keshelava, D.A. Khakhutaishvili, R.Kh. Kontselidze, R.Ya. Davitashvili, Z.A. Lomidze, T.V. Kunchuliya, USSR People's Deputy E.N. Shengelay, Deputies V.O. Kobakhiya, Sh.G. Shanidze, and N.P. Mgaloblishvili.

Many proposals and considerations were presented during the course of the session on the draft laws and other issues. In this connection the commissions for legislative proposals of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet were instructed to analyze each of them and present its conclusion to the session, and after this was discussed the draft laws would be approved.

A report on the seventh issue on the agenda was presented by the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, Chairman of the republic Gosplan [State Planning Committee], Deputy O.G. Vardzelashvili.

A report on the next issue was given by the Georgian SSR Minister of Finance, Deputy D.N. Dvalishvili.

The session heard a joint report from the planning-budget and other permanent commissions of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet which were presented by the Chairman of the planning-budget commission Deputy L.Ya. Khaburzaniya.

The day of the work session ended with this. It is continuing its work today [17 November].

Complaints Commission Discussed

90US0263B Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 19 Nov 89 p 1

[GRUZINFORM report on Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet session]

[Text] On 18 November the 12th session of the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, 11th term, continued its work. At the beginning of the meeting the first secretary of the Central Committee Communist Party of Georgia, chairman of the Presidium Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, Deputy G.G. Gumbaridze reported that these days on Rustaveli prospect there is a group of citizens who for a long time have had essential complaints against the republic's legal protection organs. Having noted that compassion and attention should be paid to these people, he suggested creating a commission which would consider these complaints and draw the appropriate conclusions about the issues that were bothering them. The session suggested that the chairman of the Georgian People's Front, Deputy N.R. Natadze, form this commission, having agreed on the composition of its members with the aforementioned group of citizens.

Next at the session the discussion of the seventh and eighth issues on the agenda was resumed. The following participated in the discussion of the report and coreport: I.O. Andriadze, G.Ye. Chigogidze, I.A. Menagarishvili, I.V. Prangishvili, B.Z. Makashvili, the chairman of the ispolkom [executive committee] of the Kutaisi city soviet of people's deputies T.G. Shashiashvili, Deputy N.N. Neferedov, and Georgian SSR trade minister V.G. Dzhindzhikhadze.

Statements and suggestions were presented at the session by USSR People's Deputies Ye.G. Chilaya and D.I. Guguchiya and Deputies L.L. Gogoberidze and K.K. Gardabkhadze.

The concluding statement was made by the Deputy Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, the Chairman of the republic Gosplan [State Planning Committee], Deputy O.G. Vardzelashvili.

The session approved (with two abstentions) the decree on the state plan for the economic and social development of the Georgian SSR for 1990 and the decree on the course of the implementation of the state plan for the economic and social development of the Georgian SSR in 1989.

Then the deputies adopted (with one abstention) the law on the Georgian SSR state budget for 1990. A decree was adopted to approve the report on the fulfillment of the Georgian SSR state budget for 1988.

Before declaring a recess Deputy N.R. Natadze gave information about the course of the fulfillment of the instructions given to him to form a commission.

The deputies began to consider the next question on the agenda. Information was heard from the commission on question of political and legal evaluation of violations of the treaty between Georgia and Soviet Russia of 7 May 1920. This information was given by its chairman, Deputy A.D. Aleksidze.

Remarks and suggestions about this issue were given by Deputy N.R. Natadze, USSR People's Deputy E.N. Shengelaya, the head of the department of history of peoples of the USSR of Tbilisi State University imeni Ivane Dzhavakhishvili, A.N. Surguladze.

The session approved the commissions conclusion and adopted the corresponding decree.

The conclusion of the commission created by a decree of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet of 17 April 1989 in Tbilisi was presented by a member of this commission, E.N. Shengelaya.

Remarks and suggestions regarding this issue were made by USSR People's Deputy T.V. Gamkrelidze, and Deputies N.R. Natadze, V.A. Sharashenidze, G.D. Lordkipanidze, and A.G. Karanadze.

By an absolute majority of votes (8—against, 10—abstained] the session approved the commission's conclusion and adopted the corresponding decision.

The conclusion of the commission for legislative proposals of the republic supreme soviet for draft laws of the Georgian SSR concerning changes and additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Georgian SSR, elections of Georgian SSR people's deputies, and about elections of people's deputies of local soviets of the republic was presented to the session by the Deputy Chairman of this commission, R.D. Dzhakiya. It was noted that it was made on the basis of an analysis of generalization of the proposals that came in during the course of the public discussion of the data from the draft laws.

Deputy V.V. Keshelava expressed his ideas about the conclusion that was submitted. Deputy E.N. Shengelaya's question was answered by the head of the department of theory of law and state law of Tbilisi State University imeni Ivane Dzhavakhishvili, G.Z. Intskirveli.

The deputies unanimously approved the Georgian SSR law "On Changes and Additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Georgian SSR." A decree was adopted concerning the procedure for putting this law into effect.

The laws of the Georgian SSR "On Elections of Georgian SSR People's Deputies" and "On Elections of People's Deputies of Local Soviets of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR" were approved.

Then the deputies adopted the corresponding decrees in connection with the information from the commissions and work groups: For developing proposals concerning the introduction of the legal status of citizenship in the Georgian SSR; the restoration of the national troop formations and the serving of military service by Georgian draftees on the territory of the republic; immigration processes in the republic and the elimination of shortcomings and mistakes made regarding this; and the development of proposals concerning exercising real sovereignty of the Georgian SSR. As for the conditions for USSR law having force on the territory of the Georgian SSR, this was already reflected in the changes made in the Constitution.

Because the terms of office of deputies of all levels of soviets are expiring, the session made decisions to schedule elections of deputies of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, 12th term, on Sunday, 25 March 1990, and deputies of local soviets of the 21st term—on Sunday, 17 June 1990.

The session adopted a law on making changes to the Georgian SSR Constitution in connection with the restoration of the names of Martvilskiy, Ozurgetskiy, Kharagaulskiy, Senakskiy, and Khonskiy Rayons and the transformation of the city of Marneuli into a city under rayon jurisdiction.

Decrees were adopted concerning the formation of permanent commissions of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet: For questions of land use and land development; immigration; and work with youth who have been drafted into the Soviet Army from Georgia.

In connection with the wish expressed at the session by the department chief of the Institute of Georgian Literature imeni Sh. Rustaveli of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, G.S. Sharadze, concerning the establishment of ties with Georgian emigres, the Presidium of the republic Supreme Soviet was given instructions to study this question and submit its conclusions.

The session adopted a decree on the transformation of the permanent commission on environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet into a permanent commission for questions of ecology.

Decrees were adopted for the formation of the following commissions: The development of a procedure for conducting a referendum in the Georgian SSR; the development of a Georgian SSR draft law on language; the study of long-standing complaints from groups of citizens.

The session adopted a decree on the creation of a commission for studying questions raised in connection with the status of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. During consideration of this issue a statement was made by the director of the South Ossetian Scientific Research Institute of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences, Deputy B.V. Tekhov.

A decree was adopted concerning the formation of a central election commission for elections of deputies of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Concerning the fifteenth and sixteenth points on the agenda the session adopted a decree for reorganizing the environmental protection service in the Georgian SSR and the formation of an independent service for land use and land development in the republic.

The session approved the ukase of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to appoint B.E. Saralidze Georgian SSR minister of automotive transportation and highways.

The session approved the release of Deputy A.A. Chkhenidze from the position of chairman of the republic Council of Ministers.

The chairman of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet N.A. Chitanava presented a program of action for the government at the session.

The session approved the ukase of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to appoint N.A. Chitanava chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

A report on the approval of the ukases of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet was given by the Secretary of the Presidium of the republic Supreme Soviet Deputy V.A. Kvaratskheliya.

The session approved the corresponding law and decrees.

The question of Deputies A.Z. Golidzhashvili and G.A. Vatiashvili was answered by the First Deputy Chairman of the Georgian SSR Gosagroprom [State Agroindustrial Committee], Deputy L.A. Gurtskaya.

Various questions related to the further work of the republic Supreme Soviet were discussed by Deputies N.R. Natadze, D.A. Charkviani, N.P. Mgaloblizhvili, L.L. Gogoberidze, USSR People's Deputy P.I. Margvelashvili, and Deputy Chairman of the board of the Georgian People's Front A.P. Imnadze.

G.G. Gumbaridze spoke at the conclusion of the session.

With this the 12th session of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, 11th term, completed its work.

Future Activity of Georgian Government Outlined

90US0269A Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Nov 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Republic Government: Problems Whose Acute Nature Is the Same as a Revolutionary Crisis That We Must Resolve. Report of the Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers Deputy N.A. Chitanav"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Let me say in advance that today the republic government is acting in five main directions. Each direction contains many problems and questions. They are all organically interlinked and complementary and they create a single system and are built on the principle of combining the whole with the part. It is, therefore, impossible either to consider or resolve these problems in isolation one from the other. At the same time, the tactics and stages in resolving them require clarification and concretization, and this should correspond to the demands of the times. Here let me say that the course of stage-by-stage resolution of the problem lies at the basis of the directions in the republic's development.

Each stage of development has its own specific features, peculiar to it alone (political, economic, psychological, intellectual). Therefore, in the tactics used for action and in determining the position, they must necessarily be taken into account. Each stage must prepare a solid economic, organizational, and psychological base for accomplishing the next, more complex task. This in general is the methodological foundation for defining strategy for government actions.

Let me briefly report these main directions.

Each year natural disasters in the republic, the exhaustion and erosion of the soil, the devastation and impoverishment of our fields and orchards, and vineyards, tea and citrus plantations, the ruthless destruction of flora and fauna, and contamination of the air and of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs testify graphically to how irresponsibly we treat our own natural wealth—nature.

The need to improve the ecological situation has presented us with a very difficult test. Unfortunately, we have not even made a thorough analysis of all the ecological parameters in order to make a proper determination of the prospects. Neither is there a strong coordinating center. We need clarification and concretization and criteria for determining the ecological situation. Therefore, the government has established improvement of the ecological situation in Georgia as a priority strategic direction.

What must be done for this?

First. The future of the nation requires the formation in this direction of a well-composed system of interlinked efforts by the state service, medical institutions, and public organizations, and the creation, on the basis of comprehensive analysis of the experience gained by other countries and taking into account the specific features of the republic, of our own new model for the management of natural processes.

Second. The Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences jointly with the nature conservation organs and representatives of the public have drawn up a draft state ecological program. In the near future it should be published for general discussion. This program should become a platform for practical actions to save the republic from ecology catastrophe.

Third. When discussing the program, scientists and experts and the public at large should take into account all the aspects of intervention by man in natural processes, and consider well the priority of methods under the conditions of scientific and technical progress in resolving any given ecological problem. Only then, after conducting an appropriate analysis, should a joint, optical decision be reached.

Fourth. In the struggle to improve the ecological situation there should be a sharp increase in the part played by the corps of deputies, the mass media, labor and educational collectives, and the public at large. We are not conducting the proper propaganda about ecological standards among the public, particularly among schoolchildren and student youth. We must effect a radical change in attitudes toward the natural environment. The capital and the cities and villages, and the highways and roads in the republic, the streets and side streets, and all places where man comes into contact with the environment should be clean and meet directly the inner needs of a people with centuries of history and a high level of culture, and their nature in general.

Improving the ecological milieu is an integral part of state policy in Georgia. One important lever for implementing this policy is the creation of Council of Ministers government commissions for ecology and for extraordinary situations, led by the government chairman.

The draft Concept for the National Development of the Georgian SSR has been published in the republic press for discussion. Devising and implementing in a planned way an active, national state policy is of extraordinarily great and fundamental importance for the successful realization of this concept. Therefore, the government has defined improving the demographic situation one of the main directions of its work.

It has been deemed advisable to devise and implement the kind of national demographic policy whose basis would be making maximum use of material, financial, legal, and indoctrination-and-propaganda mechanisms and correct directions. The shaping of such a policy, of course, requires basic research into demographic aspects, particularly ethnic, socioeconomic, and historical aspects, and devising various scenarios for demographic predictions and the implementation of a long-term, comprehensive demographic program on this basis. For this what is needed is a powerful demographic center. The government has taken practical steps in this direction, and has adopted the decree "On Devising a Concept for Demographic Situations in Georgia." At the same time due consideration has been given to the advisability of setting up a demographic center within the system of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences.

Fruitful work by the Demographic Society is of great importance for the consistent and planned implementation of demographic policy at the state level. A migration policy must also be implemented for the sake of consistent realization of the course of national demographic policy. We believe that the foundation of this should be natural production features and traditions.

The government commission to improve the demographic situation, which is led by the government chairman, will create the proper material and organizational and legal prerequisites for the successful resolution of this national task.

The republic government has defined one direction of its activity as insuring comprehensive and dynamic development of the economy.

At this very complicated stage in social development we are worried by the fact that the republic economy is seriously sick. How can it be cured? Or even, can it be cured? When raising these issues many people often express doubts, thinking that no improvement is taking place in the economy. What is our position?

The times are posing many questions in a new way. Naturally, the new tasks are not being resolved by existing political and economic structures and principles and methods of management. We must also make radical changes in the structure of social production, and it should correspond to the resolution of specific problems in the republic.

We support the use of a variety of forms of ownership and progressive methods and principles in the organization of labor and production. Today, a quite new concept has been devised in the republic for economic development. It will provide an opportunity to resolve all tasks on an appropriate scale and in unconventional ways. This realistic program for improving the economy is beginning to operate. The time has come for the republic and each individual enterprise and organization to live within its own income, and to build economic activity on the principles of self-management and self-financing. Today this is the primary basis for the longer perspective.

For this it is necessary, first, to take inventory within the shortest possible time of fixed and circulating capital and all kinds of resources and individual output, and to assess their value realistically.

Second. We must make efficient use of radical means for curing the economy, such as change the nature of labor. Labor should first and foremost be built on material interest. You cannot create a sound economy on empty enthusiasm. Without a sound economy there will be no strong political structure.

Third. It is necessary to support comprehensively the strengthening of economic cooperation with foreign countries and to introduce their capital extensively into the republic's national economy. The creation of joint-venture enterprises and organizations should be recognized as one organizational form for this kind of cooperation.

Some 30 joint venture enterprises are operating in the republic, and their startup capital exceeds R100 million.

Henceforth, of course, we shall support this form of capital investment by capitalist and socialist countries in the republic's national economy. However, we must also take into consideration the fact that there are great opportunities to set up joint venture enterprises in particular parts of the country. For example, in timber procurement in Siberia, the production of construction materials in other parts of the country, and so forth. We must introduce this form as widely as possible. It has great prospects.

Georgia can play an active part in the complex process of scientific-technical and economic cooperation with foreign countries. We believe we have a real triangle here: The developed countries—Georgia—the developing countries. Under the aegis of the International Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Georgia will occupy a worthy place in this triangle through its scientific and intellectual potential. Today the government is working on this prospect.

Eradicating the organizational and material foundations of the shadow economy is an important way to improve the economy. This is a complicated task but the preparation of realistic conditions for its resolution is possible.

It is essential to seek out realistic ways to develop agricultural output in the republic at high rates. The main thing is to accelerate the switch to the leasehold contract. Naturally, wherever conditions exist for this, in the future family forms suitable for cooperation and integration, particularly small-farm and farm forms, should be extensively introduced. Radical changes are taking place in production relations and the organizational bases of public farms. The land and the countryside should have a master. Everyone, regardless of where they live—in the cities or in the countryside—should have a right to use the land. In making the correct disposition of production forces in the countryside, due consideration should be given to local traditions and to the customs and culture of the population, and to other factors.

Cooperative and individual labor activity must also be concretized. Each individual and each cooperative must create appropriate economic and organizational conditions for highly productive labor. It is essential to make a rational determination of their participation in the forming of state financial resources.

Power engineering is a weak spot in Georgia's economy. The level of its technical development is low. Deputies O. Vardzelashvili and I. Prangishvili have already talked about this. Major changes have been made in the program to develop power engineering in the republic. Accordingly, in the period immediately ahead we must concretize its main parameters.

The republic government will pay particular attention to realization of the housing construction program, which envisages providing each family with its own apartment or house by the year 2000. This is a political and socioeconomic task of special importance. The government must cope with it.

The services sphere must be developed at rapid rates.

Special importance is attached to construction and the construction industry in the development and upsurge of the republic's economy. It is precisely the economic, production, and organizational bases of this sphere that need serious restructuring. What is our task? It is essential to make radical improvements in planning, the production of construction materials, the organization of labor, the personnel training system, and so forth.

Efficient use of the possibilities of the sea are of fundamental importance in developing the republic economy.

Development of the Black Sea and the geographical and economic zones along its littoral is not exhausted just with the development of subtropical crops, tourism, and the creation of an extensive network of resorts and the operations of the Georgian steamship line. The question of further development and use of this region is exceptional important and promising. Its development will require joint efforts by the scientific organizations, the planning committee, and appropriate ministries and departments since it's importance is not simple and covers problems from the varied channels for international relations to industry, trade, maritime navigation and the exploitation of maritime resources. Special attention must be paid to its function of linking Georgia to the outside world.

Georgia is called an area of resorts. The resort areas play such an important role in public life that the concept of their development (and we hope that work on their role will be accelerated) should be given maximum consideration in making full use of the republic's very rich natural and climatic and economic possibilities. At the same time it is essential to make creative use of the experience of international practice and introduce a variety of forms of tourism, including peasant- and family-run tourism, which will operate on a cooperative, contractual, or some other basis.

Opening up the mountainous regions of Georgia is a big problem that presents a whole slew of acute demographic, ecological, social, and economic questions. Today, of course, we shall not examine this question in great detail, but nevertheless it should be said that in order to to overcome the alienation of the people from the mountains we need a comprehensive, well-considered program based on the social, spiritual, and ethical interests of society. Of the many means to do this let me single out one—voluntary, staged resettlement and establishment of urban dwellers, first and foremost those in the capital, in the countryside, particularly the mountainous zone. It seems to me that this question does hold out some prospects.

In my opinion, for this, in those regions, along with agricultural production it is also necessary to develop on the basis of state and cooperative ownership a network of ecologically clean, small industrial enterprises (branches) operating through the use of local raw materials. This is first.

Second, the interests of the republic's economy and of the people's material well-being require the revival of the rich traditions of domestic industries. It is essential to be oriented on the extensive use of the principles of home work. This is a very promising avenue.

Third, these regions must be provided with well-built roads and transport and up-to-date communications and trade and service projects.

Fourth, tourism in general must be put on an industrial level, including international tourism.

In the management of the economy the main thing is competence. This represents an unutilized reserve, and is a criterion for assessing results. Let us be candid: Ignorance has ruined the economy, and ignorance and incompetence will ruin an economy.

Yesterday deputy Shalva Shanidze reproached the government because it is delaying in introducing a free zone in general, and in the Akhaltsikhskiy region in particular, which could have trade relations with Turkey. What can be said on this score? In many countries the creation of free economic zones has in some ways improved the economy but killed the national spirit, and the people of those countries have become dependent on foreign capital and foreign wills. We must know that when we use this economic model it is essential to make a comprehensive study of and analyze the specific conditions of the country where its introduction is planned. I believe that Georgia should not go along that road (the road of creating free zones). It has its own correct path, namely, the path of creating a new economic structure, taking into account and giving due consideration to natural and production and cultural and psychological features, and customs and traditions. This structure should not exclude the use of certain modified elements of the free economic zone. With regard to the prospects for border trade with Turkey, it must be said that an appropriate program is now being drawn up.

One of the strategic directions in the activity of the government is to create and shape a national model for the development of education, culture, and science.

There is no need to confirm that the present system of education is lagging behind the tasks of the times. In the future, personnel trained under that system will be unable to satisfy the requirements of scientific and technical progress. This matter requires a special approach and consideration of all the nuances that are worth attention in the development of the nation. At the same time, it is essential to prepare an appropriate intellectual foundation to recognize and understand national and general human problems.

The government has chosen the correct path by laying the basis for training for young people in the scientific centers of Europe and the United States in the future. Some people have been sent and are being sent this year, and dozens will go next year. We must make effective use of this form of specialist training.

With regard to scientific, its development will be subordinated mainly to the tasks of harmonizing the development of the republic's economy and culture.

Analysis of the present status of and prospects for the development of science as a direct production force convinces us that if we really want to develop it we must seek out effective, unconventional ways to do so. In our opinion, science should work mainly on goal-oriented programs that the authorities will order and finance. At the same time it is essential to approach in a very profound and substantiated way the formation of the programs themselves. This is not at all a simple matter. To skimp in this matter is a big mistake. The more we spend the more we shall obtain in the future. The comprehensive program that is now being developed should reflect national features and traditions and define all opportunities for taking them into account as far as possible, and also ways to make full use of national potential in resolving common human problems.

The fifth important direction of government activity is the creation of appropriate natural, material, and social conditions to maintain and improve public health. This strategic direction covers a broad range of problems and requires the formation and realization of a multiplane, comprehensive program. This program should reflect all issues, from physical culture and sports to the creation of an extensive network of diagnostic and treatment centers with up-to-date equipment, and the training of highly skilled medical personnel. The republic should have a mobile public health system. Government member I. Menagarishvili must hasten work on and presentation of a concept for the development of public health.

The main thought in all five directions for development can be briefly depicted from the following scheme: A person should live in a clean environment and be materially supported and also educated and cultured and—the main thing—healthy.

There, in brief, are the main strategic directions of the national rebirth and economic sovereignty that have been made the foundation of government activity in the republic for the immediate future. [passage omitted]

Ivashko Assesses Lithuanian Party Split

LD0201175490 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 2015 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Volodymyr Ivashko, USSR people's deputy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, visited the Bolshevik plant and the Kashtan production association in Kiev. He met with workers and discussed a wide range of questions pertaining to the decisions of the Second Congress of USSR People's Deputies and of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

Comrade Ivashko gave a detailed outline of the discussion on the economic program presented to the congress by the government. Personally, he said, I voted for the program, and not because the overwhelming majority of deputies did likewise. I am convinced that only through a wise interplay of market development and planning will it be possible to get out of the crisis.

Dwelling on the question discussed at the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Volodymyr Ivashko stressed: Never before in history has any sort of disunity or seclusion produced anything good. Sometime later all this becomes a bitter lesson, leading to losses never to be recoupped. It is precisely to such consequences that the decision by the 20th Congress of the Lithuanian Communist Party—which has, in fact, declared its seclusion from the CPSU—may lead. He answered worker's questions and thanked them for nominating him a candidate for people's deputy from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. He was accompanied by Korniyenko, first secretary of the Kiev City Party Committee.

Uzbek Party Assesses Lithuanian Party Split

LD0201173390 Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Turkmen 1430 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Tashkent—A meeting of the republican active was held in the capital of Uzbekistan. The participants assessed the decision of the 20th Congress of the Lithuanian Communist Party on seceding from the CPSU as a decision that could not be seen or heard of. Those who spoke at the meeting said that unity of the party is as necessary as air at this time of the historical evolution when the party is carrying out essential changes.

The (?integrating) power of the ideas of restructuring is capable of uniting the energy and power of communists of various nationalities. The power of the party is in its unity. In the present difficult situation, it is necessary to wage an open counterattack against those who attempt to (?break) the party. The future [word indistinct] of many party organizations is lacking endurance. Those who spoke shared the view that lagging behind the process of restructuring in the party [word indistinct] should not be allowed.

Karimov, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the meeting.

Brazauskas Addresses Party Meeting on Agriculture

90UN0498A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 30 Nov 89 p 1

[ELTA report: "Working Cohesively, Knowing the Actual Situation"]

[Text] Vilnius, 29 November—A meeting was held today in the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee which discussed the directions of the activity of agriculture and manufacturing industry under the conditions of the republic's economic independence. Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, Vitautas Sakalauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, Stanislovas Gedraytis, secretary of the party Central Committee, Yonas Yagminas, deputy chairman of the republic Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Commission for Agricultural and Food Products, other senior party and soviet officials, representatives of the Farmers Council and leaders of production associations of the agro-industrial complex took part in the meeting.

It was noted that the new system of management of the agro-industrial complex which had been created this year was essentially in keeping with the concept of the republic's economic independence. The independence and interest of the producers in the results of their work are growing, and the processes of cooperative formation and integration are moving ahead in a package. At the same time, however, it was affirmed that many problems confront the farmers and their partners in the difficult economic conditions which have taken shape in the republic. There is not as yet complete mutual understanding between them.

A. Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, who addressed the meeting, observed that it was necessary to remove as quickly as possible the mistrust preventing agriculture and the industry serving it switching to mutually profitable economic cooperation. The farmers should, finally, obtain a clear answer as to what the purchase prices for farm products will be and what material supply will be like. The revived Ministry of Agriculture must shape its position more decisively in the elaboration of the strategy of the activity of agriculture and manufacturing industry. The local component of state management—the rayon agriculture administrations—must embark on the exercise of their functions more assertively. The farms want more glasnost on all issues connected with agriculture, and it is essential to guarantee this.

The meeting was of the common opinion that at this difficult transitional time for the republic it was very important to avoid disagreements and strive in all areas of production for order and discipline. The farmers and their partners have a common goal—better satisfying the needs of the inhabitants of the republic—and for this, united efforts are needed.

Lithuanian SSR Law on Citizenship

90UN0386A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 10 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Lithuanian SSR Law: "On Lithuanian SSR Citizenship"]

[Text]

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Lithuanian SSR [Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic] citizens

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR are:

1) individuals who have had citizenship in the Lithuanian republic, their children, and their grandchildren, and also other individuals who before 15 June 1940 were permanent residents of the present territory of the Lithuanian SSR, their children and their grandchildren who are permanently living on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR;

2) individuals with a permanent place of residence in the Lithuanian SSR if they themselves were born there or they can prove that at least one of their parents or grandfather and grandmother were born on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR and if they are not a citizen of another state;

3) other individuals who on the day the present law goes into effect are permanently living on the territory of the republic or have a permanent place of work or a permanent legal source of income here. These individuals may freely declare their citizenship 2 years from the day the present law goes into effect;

4) individuals who have acquired citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR in keeping with the present law.

Article 2. Document confirming citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR

The document confirming citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR is the passport of the citizen of the Lithuanian SSR.

The procedure for issuing the passport of the citizen of the Lithuanian SSR is determined by the provisions on the passport of the citizen of the Lithuanian SSR approved by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Individuals mentioned in points 1, 2, and 3, of the first article of the present law who wish to acquire the passport of a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR sign a commitment to the republic to observe the constitution and the laws of the Lithuanian SSR and respect its state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Adults who within 2 years of the day the present law goes into effect have not acquired the passport of a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR are considered not to have citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR .

Article 3. The legal position of the Lithuanian SSR citizen

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have all the socioeconomic, political, and personal rights and freedoms proclaimed and guaranteed by the constitution of the Lithuanian SSR and the laws.

The right to elect and be elected according to the procedure established by law to soviets of people's deputies and other elective state organs of the republic, to be appointed to organs of state power and administration, to be elected as judges and people's assessors of courts of the Lithuanian SSR and also the right to participate in referendums are granted only to citizens of the Lithuanian SSR.

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR must observe the constitution and laws of the Lithuanian SSR, perform the duties established by them, protect the interests of the Lithuanian SSR, contribute to its power and authority, and be true to their republic.

Article 4. Retaining Lithuanian SSR citizenship with entry into or dissolution of marriage

The entry into marriage of a male or female citizen of the Lithuanian SSR with an individual who is a citizen of another state and also the dissolution of such a marriage do not entail a change in the citizenship of the married couple.

Article 5. Retaining Lithuanian SSR citizenship

The fact that a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR lives in another state does not in and of itself entail a loss of citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR .

Article 6. Inadmissibility of extradition of Lithuanian SSR citizen

A Lithuanian SSR citizen may not be extradited to another state.

Article 7. Admission to Lithuanian SSR citizenship as an exception

As an exception a citizen who is also a citizen of another state may be admitted to citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR by the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Article 8. Citizens of foreign countries and individuals without citizenship

Citizens of foreign countries in the Lithuanian SSR are individuals holding citizenship in any foreign state. Individuals who are not citizens of the Lithuanian SSR and who do not have proof that they are citizens of another state are considered individuals without citizenship.

Article 9. The legal position of citizens of foreign states and individuals without citizenship

Citizens of foreign states or individuals without citizenship on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR must respect the constitution and laws of the Lithuanian SSR and observe them. On the territory of the republic the legal conditions that apply to foreigners apply to them and they are guaranteed the rights and freedoms established by law, including the right to go to court and other state organs to protect their rights. Citizens of foreign states who are on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR are guaranteed the right to seek protection from diplomatic and consular institutions of their country.

II. ACQUISITION OF LITHUANIAN SSR CITIZENSHIP

Article 10. Ways of acquiring Lithuanian SSR citizenship

Citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR is acquired:

1) by birth;

2) as a result of acceptance for citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR (naturalization);

3) through option and on other grounds envisioned by international agreements of the Lithuanian SSR;

4) on other grounds envisioned by the present law.

Article 11. Citizenship of children whose parents are citizens of the Lithuanian SSR

A child, both of whose parents held citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR at the time of its birth is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR, regardless of whether it was born in the Lithuanian SSR or abroad.

Article 12. Citizenship of children one of whose parents is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR

When the parents have different citizenship but one of them was a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR at the time of the child's birth, the child is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR: 1) if it was born on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR;

2) if it was born outside the Lithuanian SSR but its parents or one of them had permanent residence on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR at the time.

When the parents have different citizenships but one of them is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR at the time of the child's birth, if at that time the parents have permanent residence outside the Lithuanian SSR, the citizenship of a child born outside the Lithuanian SSR is determined by the agreement of the parents.

A child, one of whose parents at the time of the child's birth was a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR but the other was a person without citizenship or was unknown, is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR regardless of its place of birth.

Article 13. Acquisition of Lithuanian SSR citizenship by children without citizenship

A child without citizenship who is permanently living in Lithuania and was born on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR acquires citizenship of the Lithuanian SSR

Article 14. Citizenship of children whose parents are unknown

A child who is discovered on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR and both of whose parents are unknown is considered to have been born here and is a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR.

Article 15. Conditions for acceptance for citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR

An individual may be accepted for citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR on his petition of this individual agrees to takE the oath to the republic and meets the following conditions
1) knows the Lithuanian language;
2) has had a permanent residence on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR for the past 10 years;
3) has a permanent place of work or a permanent legal source of livelihood on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR;
4) knows the fundamentals of the Lithuanian SSR constitution;

The Lithuanian SSR does not accept for citizenship individuals who:

1) have committed a crime against mankind or have committed genocide;
2) have been sentenced to prison for a serious deliberate crime;
3) are chronic alcoholics or drug addicts.

Article 16. Acceptance for citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR of individuals who have married a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR

Individuals who have married a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR take the following oath:

"I (surname, given name) swear to observe the constitution and laws of the republic, to respect the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Lithuanian SSR, its state language, culture, customs, and traditions, and to make my contribution to the cause of the flourishing of the democratic Lithuanian state and the protection of its interests."

The oath of allegiance to the republic is taken publicly in a solemn ceremony in the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet or, on its instructions, in the rayon or city soviets of people's deputies of the Lithuanian SSR. The individual who has acquired citizenship pronounces the text of the oath in Lithuanian and signs it.

III. LOSS OF LITHUANIAN SSR CITIZENSHIP, RESTORATION OF LITHUANIAN SSR CITIZENSHIP, AND RETENTION THEREOF

Article 18. Loss of Lithuanian SSR citizenship Lithuanian SSR citizenship is lost:
1) as a result of renunciation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship;
2) as a result of deprivation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship;
3) on grounds envisioned by international agreements of the Lithuanian SSR.

Article 19. Renunciation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship

A citizen of the Lithuanian SSR has the right to renounce his Lithuanian SSR citizenship

Renunciation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship is not allowed if the individual petitioning for this has been accused in court or if a legal court sentence has gone into effect and is subject to being carried out, or if the renunciation of this individual's citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR runs counter to the interests of the security of the Lithuanian SSR.

Article 20. Deprivation of citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR

An individual may be deprived of Lithuanian SSR citizenship by a decision of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. Deprivation of Lithuanian SSR occurs in the following cases:
1) when citizenship in the republic has been acquired through forged documents or any other kind of deception;
2) an especially serious crime has been committed against the republic;
3) an individual has entered the service of another state without the knowledge and permission of competent state organs of the Lithuanian SSR;
4) the individual has committed a crime against mankind or genocide as envisioned by international law.

Article 21. Restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship An individual who has lost his Lithuanian SSR citizenship on the grounds envisioned by points 1 and 3 of article 18 of the present law may petition for restoration of his Lithuanian SSR citizenship if at the time he submits the petition he lives on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR or intends to move here and also under the conditions determined by article 15 of the present law (with the exception of points 2 and 3 of the first part).

Article 22. Retention of the right to Lithuanian SSR citizenship

The right to Lithuanian SSR citizenship is retained for individuals who have moved from the territory of Lithuania or abandoned it after 1940 as well as their children and grandchildren.

For other Lithuanians, citizenship in the republic is recognized of they move to Lithuania to live and that the oath of allegiance to the republic.

IV. CITIZENSHIP OF CHILDREN WHEN THEIR PARENTS CHANGE CITIZENSHIP

Article 23. Change of citizenship by children in the event of a change of citizenship of both parents

If both parents acquire Lithuanian SSR citizenship or both lose it, the citizenship of their children under 14 years of age changes correspondingly.

Article 24. Acquisition of Lithuanian SSR citizenship by children in the event that one of the parents acquires Lithuanian SSR citizenship

If one of the parents becomes a Lithuanian SSR citizen and the other remains a citizen of another state, the child may acquire Lithuanian SSR citizenship upon petition for this from both of the parents.

If one of the parents acquires Lithuanian SSR citizenship and the other remains an individual without citizenship, a child living on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR acquires Lithuanian SSR citizenship.

If one of the parents acquires Lithuanian SSR citizenship and the other remains an individual without citizenship, a child living outside the Lithuanian SSR may acquire Lithuanian SSR citizenship upon petition for this from the one of the parents who has acquired Lithuanian SSR citizenship.

Article 25. Retention of Lithuanian SSR citizenship by children in the event that one of the parents loses Lithuanian SSR citizenship

If one of the parents loses Lithuanian SSR citizenship but the other is a Lithuanian SSR citizen, their child under 14 years of age retains Lithuanian SSR citizenship.

Article 26. The need for the agreement of the children when changing their citizenship

A change of the citizenship of children from 14 to 18 years of age in the event that the citizenship of their parents is change can follow only after the written consent of the children.

V. PROCEDURE FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS OF LITHUANIAN SSR CITIZENSHIP

Article 27. Submitting petitions and written information concerning questions of Lithuanian SSR citizenship

The question of acceptance for Lithuanian SSR citizenship, the refusal of Lithuanian SSR citizenship, or restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship is considered upon receipt of a written petition from the interested party. A copy of the birth certificate and proof of the permanent place of residence and work (employment) should be appended to the petition for citizenship.

Petitions from individuals under 18 years of age for Lithuanian SSR citizenship, the refusal of Lithuanian SSR citizenship, and the restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship are submitted by their legal guardians.

Petitions for Lithuanian SSR citizenship, the refusal of Lithuanian SSR citizenship or the restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship and also written information regarding deprivation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship are submitted to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme through the rayon or city soviet of people's deputies.

Individuals who live in another state and have the right to acquire Lithuanian SSR citizenship, in cases envisioned by the present law, submit petitions through the Lithuanian SSR government or minors send them to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Article 28. Commission on citizenship of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet

The commission on citizenship of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet is formed for preliminary consideration of questions of Lithuanian SSR citizenship.

The composition of personnel on the commission on citizenship is approved by the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The commission has the right to invite to its meetings an individual about whose citizenship a question is being resolved and to give instructions to state and social organs and organizations to express their opinion within the time period stipulated by the commission and present the necessary materials concerning the petition or written information being considered by the commission.

Meetings of the commission are authorized if more than half of its members participate in them. Decisions of the commission are made by a simple majority of votes.

For each petition or written information the commission introduces a proposal for the consideration of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. The commission's decisions are presented in the form of a protocol signed by all members of the commission who participated in the meeting.

Article 29. Decision on petitions and written information regarding questions of republic citizenship in the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet

For acceptance for Lithuanian SSR citizenship, refusal of Lithuanian SSR citizenship, restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship, or deprivation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR issues an ukase, and when a petition or written request is denied, a decree.

The ukase concerning acceptance for Lithuanian SSR citizenship is accepted after the individual takes the oath of allegiance to the republic.

Article 30. Publication of acts concerning Lithuanian SSR citizenship

Ukases of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet concerning acceptance for Lithuanian SSR citizenship or deprivation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship are published in the VEDOMISTI VERKHNOGO SOVETA I PRAVITELSTVA LITOVSKOY SSR.

Article 31. Repeat consideration of petitions and written requests concerning questions of Lithuanian SSR citizenship

Repeat petitions from individuals for acceptance for Lithuanian SSR citizenship, refusal of Lithuanian SSR citizenship, or restoration of Lithuanian SSR citizenship and also written requests concerning deprivation of Lithuanian SSR citizenship are accepted no sooner than a year after the adoption of the preceding decision.

Article 32. Preparation of documents for Lithuanian SSR citizenship

The preparation and filling out of documents concerning Lithuanian SSR citizenship are handled by the republic internal affairs services.

Article 33. Procedure for considering petitions and written requests concerning questions of Lithuanian SSR citizenship

The procedure for considering petitions and written requests concerning Lithuanian SSR citizenship and the execution of the decisions that are made is determined by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

VI. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Article 34. Application of international agreements concerning questions of citizenship

If an international agreement in which the Lithuanian SSR participates establishes different rules from those contained in the present law, the rules of the international agreement are applied.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 35. Final provisions

Individuals indicated in article 1 of the present law, before they have free self-determination of citizenship, for 2 years from the day the present law goes into effect may enjoy the rights of a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR.

During the period until Lithuania establishes full state sovereignty, citizens of the Lithuanian SSR also use the passport of a citizen of the USSR.

None of the provisions of the present law may be interpreted as an obligation of a Lithuanian SSR citizen with respect to any other state or the citizenship established by him.

The law on Lithuanian SSR citizenship goes into effect from the day of its adoption and a 2-year period from the day of its adoption is established for its complete implementation.

[Signed] Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, V. Astrauskas.
Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, L. Sabutis
Vilnius, 3 November 1989.

Lithuanian SSR Law on Referendums Published

90UN0386F Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 12 Nov pp 1, 3

[Lithuanian SSR "Law On Referendums"]

[Text]

I. General Provision

Article 1. Foundations of the referendum

The most important issues of the state and social life of the republic are resolved in keeping with the Lithuanian SSR Constitution and the laws of the Lithuanian SSR may be applied through referendum.

A referendum is declared by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Article 2. General principles for holding a referendum

Participation in the referendum is free and is based on democratic principles of suffrage (on universal, equal, and direct suffrage with secret voting).

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR who have reached 18 years of age have the right to participate in a referendum.

Citizens declared incompetent by the court, individuals deprived of their freedom because of a court sentence (decree) or because of the investigation of a criminal case, and also those undergoing compulsory treatment by a decision of the court do not participate in a referendum.

Citizens participate in a referendum on an equal basis. Each citizen has one vote in a referendum

A referendum is direct. Citizens participate in a referendum directly and personally.

Voting in a referendum is secret, monitoring the expression of the will of the citizens is not allowed.

Any direct or indirect restrictions on the rights of citizens to participate in a referendum depending on their origin, social and property position, racial and national affiliation, sex, education, language, religious beliefs, political views, time of residence in a given location, and kind and character of employment are prohibited.

Article 3. Campaigning for a referendum

Social organizations, including political ones, and social movements, labor collectives, and citizens of the Lithuanian SSR are granted the right to unimpeded campaigning for the proposal to declare a referendum and for the adoption of a law or other decision included on the referendum and also against the proposal to declare a referendum and the adoption of a law or other decision.

In order to exercise this right interested individuals and organizations are given premises for meetings and rallies and they are given the opportunity to use the mass media. Private funds may be allotted for social, including political, organizations, social movements, labor collectives, and citizens to conduct a campaign.

Campaigning is not allowed on the day of the referendum.

Article 4. Openness in preparing for and conducting a referendum

Referendum commissions prepare for and conduct referendums openly and publicly.

Referendum commissions inform the citizens of their work, the formation of districts for voting, the composition, location, and time of operation of the commissions, and the lists of citizens with the right to vote on the referendums.

Observers from social, including political, organizations and social movements, labor collectives, and also meetings of citizens who have given written notification have the right to be present at meetings of the referendum commissions and also during the voting and when determining the results of the voting and the referendum.

Draft laws and other of the most important issues of state and social life included on a referendum are published in the press and reported on television and radio, and the population is informed of them by other means as well.

The mass media report on the course of preparing for and conducting the referendum and their representatives are guaranteed unimpeded access to all sessions and meetings related to the referendum. Referendum commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives give them information related to preparing for and conducting the referendum.

Article 5. Material support for the referendum

Expenditures related to preparing for and conducting the referendum are made from at state expense.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, state and social organs place at the disposal of referendum commissions premises and equipment necessary for preparing for and conducting the referendum.

Article 6. Liability for violating the Lithuanian SSR law on the referendum

Individuals using violence, deception, threats, or any other means to impede the exercise by a citizen of the Lithuanian SSR of his right to participate in a referendum or campaign, and also referendum commission members and officials of state and social organs who have forged documents for conducting the referendum, deliberately counted votes incorrectly, violated the secrecy, or allowing any other violations of the present law bear the responsibility established by law.

II. DECLARATION OF A REFERENDUM

Article 7. Kinds of referendums. The following issues may be resolved only through referendums:

- 1) exercise of the right to self-determination of Lithuania;
- 2) ratification of the newly adopted constitution of the republic;
- 3) ratification and denunciation of the most important international treaties.

Through referendum it is also to adopt laws and resolve other important issues of state and social life.

If necessary consultative (advisory) referendums may be held.

Article 8. The right of the initiative to declare a referendum

The right to the initiative to declare a referendum belongs to the deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet and the initiative of the people is expressed in the form of proposals signed by 300,000 citizens of the Lithuanian SSR who have the right to vote.

Article 9. Procedure for exercising the right of the initiative to declare a referendum

A proposal to declare a referendum is addressed to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. It should indicate the name of the draft law or other issue of state or social life of the republic that is being proposed for the referendum. Each proposal-application may be signed by an unlimited number of citizens. Next to each signature are indicated the surname, given name, patronymic, date of birth, and place of resident of the applicant and also the date of the signature.

The authenticity of the signatures and the Lithuanian SSR citizenship of the applicants are certified according to notarial procedure. This can also be done by leaders of state, social, including political, organizations, and organs of social movements. If a group of signatures is certified by one signature on the application the overall number of signatures must be indicated.

The authenticity of the signatures of the deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet who introduced the proposal to declare a referendum and also the fact that the applicants belong to the body of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet are certified by the presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. The proposal of the deputies is introduced in the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Article 10. Time periods for exercising the right of initiative of citizens to declare a referendum

A 2-month time period is established for citizens to exercise their right to declare a referendum regarding a concrete issue. This period is calculated from the time of registration of the initiative group of Lithuanian SSR citizens consisting of no less than ten individuals with the right to vote in the rayon or city soviet of people's deputies or the state notary office, and an act of registration is drawn up for this. One of the copies of this act is sent to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet no later than the next day after the registration.

On the basis of a copy of the act for registration the initiative group has the right to publish the corresponding announcements in the press and organize the gathering of the citizens' signatures.

Proposal-applications from citizens to declare a referendum are accumulated by the initiative group or, with its agreement, by the rayon or city soviet of people's deputies. After gathering within the set period of time 300,000 signatures of Lithuanian SSR citizens, the initiative group draws up for the proposal to declare a referendum a final act which is sent along with the proposal-applications of the citizens to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. With its agreement these actions may be taken by the state notary office.

If the necessary number of signatures of Lithuanian SSR citizens has not been gathered within a month, further gathering of signatures is stopped. It is permitted to raise the initiative regarding the same issue related to the declaration of a referendum after no less than 1 year.

Article 11. Preliminary consideration of the proposal of citizens to declare a referendum

The Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet upon receive of documents for declaring a referendum verifies them within 5 days and, having established that they do not contradict the present law, send the final act of the initiative group of the citizens along with the conclusion to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

When they establish that there are inessential imprecisions or an insignificant shortage of signatures of citizens (up to 0.5 percent), the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet informs the initiative group of this and sets a deadline of up to 15 days to eliminate the aforementioned shortcomings. After these requirements are met by the established deadline to proposal to declare a referendum is subsequently considered according to the general procedure.

In the event of violation of the deadline for exercising the right of initiative without good reason, the lack of the necessary number of signatures of Lithuanian SSR citizens, or the establishment of significant violations of the law in the documents that are submitted (forgery of signatures of citizens or entries certifying the authenticity of the signatures, or violations of the principle that the collection of the signatures must be voluntary), the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet by a substantiated decision rejects the proposal to declare a referendum and reports this to the citizens of the interested initiative group and also the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR. The initiative group of citizens has a right to appeal this decision to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet within a month.

If it is established that a citizen has placed his signature twice or more on a declaration of referendum, none of his signatures is taken into account.

Article 12. Procedure for adopting a decree of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on a proposal for declaration of a referendum

The Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet upon receipt of a proposal for a declaration of a referendum in the proper form adopts a decree for the declaration of a referendum within 15 days.

The period between sessions of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet is not included in the time period mentioned in the present article.

Article 13. Content of the decree of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet concerning declaration of a referendum

The decree for the declaration of a referendum indicates the date of the referendum and the name of the draft law or specific issue in state or social life of the republic included on the referendum. The date of the referendum is scheduled no later than 3 months after the day of the adoption of the decree.

The decree declaring a referendum is published within 3 days in the republic press. No later than 10 days after the publication of the decree in the press a draft of the law or the decision included on the referendum is also published. In cases when the initiators of the referendum make changes in the draft, the must be reported in the press no latter than the 15th day after the day of the referendum.

III. PREPARATION FOR THE REFERENDUM

Article 14. Referendum commissions

The following commissions are formed from Lithuanian SSR citizens in order to prepare for and conduct the referendum

- 1) a republic referendum commission;
- 2) rayon and city referendum commissions;
- 3) district referendum commissions.

Article 15. Formation of the republic referendum commission

The republic referendum commission is formed to include a chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and 14 commission members by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet taking into account the proposals of the republic organs of social, including political, organizations and social movements, and also an initiative group, as a rule, no later than a month before the referendum.

Article 16. Authority of the republic referendum commission

The republic referendum commission

1) monitors throughout the territory of the Lithuanian SSR the execution of the present law and provides for its uniform application; if necessary, presents an interpretation of the present law to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet;

2) coordinates the activity of the rayon and city referendum commissions; determines the procedure for making personnel changes in the given referendum commissions;

3) distributes the monetary funds among the referendum commissions; checks on the provision of the referendum commissions with premises, transportation, and communications, and considers other issues of their material and technical support;

4) establishes forms for the lists of citizens with the right to participate in a referendum and other documents for conducting the referendum, sample ballots for voting, seals for the referendum commission, and the procedure for storing documents from conducting the referendum;

5) hears reports from state and social organs of the Lithuanian SSR concerning questions related to preparing for and conducting the referendum;

6) establishes the results of the referendum for the republic as a whole and publishes a report on the results of the referendum in the press;

7) considers applications and complaints about decisions and actions of referendum commissions and makes final decisions regarding them;

8) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law.

Article 17. Formation of rayon and city referendum commissions

Rayon and city referendum commissions are formed consisting of 9-11 members by the rayon and city soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, as a rule, no later than a month before the referendum.

Representatives on the rayon and city referendum commissions are nominated by rayon and city organs of social, including political, organizations and social movements and also by general meetings of labor collectives, their soviets or organs on an equal footing with them, organs for social independence of the population, and meetings of citizens in their place of residence.

Article 18. Authority of rayon and city referendum commissions

Rayon and city referendum commissions:

1) monitor the execution of the present law on the territory of the rayon or city;

2) establishes the numeration of voting districts;

3) coordinates the activity of the district referendum commissions;

4) hears reports from leaders of local organs of state management, enterprises, institutions, and organizations regarding questions related to preparing for and conducting the referendum;

5) checks to make sure that the district referendum commissions promptly submit for general familiarization the lists of citizens with the right to participate in the referendum;

6) provides for supplying the district referendum commissions with ballots;

7) establishes the results of the referendum for the rayon or city:

8) considers applications and complaints about the decisions and actions of district referendum commissions and makes decisions regarding them;

9) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law.

Article 19. Formation of districts for voting

For conducting the voting and counting the votes the territories of the rayons and cities are divided into districts for voting, as a rule, corresponding to the electoral districts formed for elections of Lithuanian SSR soviets of people's deputies.

Districts for voting at Lithuanian SSR institutions abroad are formed according to the procedure established by the republic referendum commission.

Districts for voting are formed, as a rule, no later than 20 days before the referendum.

The executive committee of the corresponding soviet of people's deputies notifies the citizens who have the right to participate in the referendum of the boundaries of each district for voting with an indication of the location of the district referendum commission and the premises for voting.

Article 20. Formation of district referendum commissions

A district referendum commission is formed consisting of 5-19 members by rayon and city soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, as a rule, no later than 20 days before the referendum. If necessary, the number of its members may be increased or decreased.

Representatives on the district referendum commission are nominated by rayon and city organs of social, including political, organizations and social movements and also local organizations in the voting districts, general meetings of labor collectives, their soviets or organs on an equal footing with them, organs of social independence of the population, and meetings of citizens in their place of residence.

Article 21. Authority of district referendum commission

The district referendum commission:

1) familiarizes participants in the referendum with the list and accepts and considers statements concerning inaccuracies in the list and decides the question of making the corresponding changes in it;

2) provides for storing the ballots turned in by citizens to the commission for storage until the beginning of the referendum in keeping with the procedure established by law;

3) notifies the citizens of the day of the referendum and the voting place;

4) provides for preparing the voting premises and the ballot boxes;

5) organizes the voting in the voting district on the day of the referendum;

6) counts the votes cast in the voting district;

7) considers applications and complaints regarding questions of preparing for the referendum and organizing the voting, and makes decisions regarding them;

8) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law.

Article 22. List of citizens with the right to participate in the referendum

Voter lists compiled for elections of Lithuanian SSR soviets of people's deputies are used for conducting the referendum.

Executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies provide for accounting for the citizens with the right to participate in the referendum and submit the final lists to the district referendum commissions.

The list is submitted for general familiarization on the premises of the district referendum commissions 15 days before the referendum and in the voting districts formed in hospitals and other in-patient therapeutic institutions—2 days before the referendum.

Each citizen has the right to appeal his failure to be included on the list and also inaccurate information about him on the list. The declaration of inaccuracies on the list is considered by the district referendum commission, which must consider the declaration within 2 days, and on the eve or the day of the election, immediately, and it must make the necessary changes in the list or give the applicant a copy of a substantiated decision to reject his declaration. This decision may be appealed to the rayon or city people's court which must consider the appeal within 3 days. The decision of the rayon or city people's court is final. The correction of the list in keeping with the court decision is done immediately by the district referendum commission.

If it is discovered less than 15 days before the beginning of the referendum that a citizen included on the list is unable to come to vote on the day of the referendum, he has the right to obtain a ballot from the district referendum commission. When he obtains the ballot the citizen is marked on the list of people who have participated in the voting. After the ballot has been filled out the citizen places it in an envelop which is sealed and certified with the stamp of the district referendum commission and is turned in to the district referendum commission. The commission stores this envelop until the day of the referendum.

Article 23. Organization of the work of the referendum commission

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the referendum commission are elected at the first meeting of the corresponding commission.

Meetings of the referendum commission are authorized if no less than two-thirds of the commission's members participate in them. Decisions of the commission are made by open voting with a majority of the votes of the commission members participating in the meeting. Commission members who do not agree with the decision have the right to express their opinion in written form. This is entered in the minutes.

Decisions of the referendum commission adopted within the limits of its competence are mandatory for execution by all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Decisions and actions of the referendum commission may be appealed to the higher referendum commission and, in cases envisioned by the present law, to the court as well.

A member of the referendum commission, by its decision, may be relieved during the period of preparing for and conducting the referendum from performance of production or job duties while retaining his average earnings to be paid from funds allotted for conducting the referendum.

Article 24. Referendum commissions when two or several referendums are declared and being conducted at the same time

In the event that two or several referendums are declared or being conducted at the same time the commissions formed in keeping with the procedure envisioned by the present law are the same for all the referendums that are declared simultaneously.

Article 25. Assisting the referendum commissions in exercising their authority

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials must assist the referendum commissions in exercising their authority and grant them the information and materials necessary for their work.

Regarding questions related to preparing for and conducting the the referendum commission has the right to appeal to state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials. They must consider the question that has been submitted and give an answer to the referendum commission within 3 days.

Article 26. The ballot

The ballot contains the text directed to the citizen and the variants "yes" and "no."

If two or several referendums are being conducted at the same time a ballot of a different color should be used for each one.

The procedure for manufacturing the ballots is determined by the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The ballots are printed in Lithuanian and, if necessary, in other languages used by the citizens of the voting district who have the right to participate in the referendum.

District referendum commissions are provided with ballots no later than 15 days before the referendum.

IV. VOTING AND ESTABLISHING THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM

Article 27. The time and place of the voting

Voting is held on the day of the referendum from 0800 to 2000 hours. The district referendum commission notifies the citizens of the time and place of the voting no later than 10 days before the referendum.

In voting districts formed on ships that are at sea on the day of the referendum and also at Lithuanian SSR institutions abroad the district referendum commission may declare the voting over at any time If all citizens included on the list have voted.

Article 28. Organization of the voting

The voting is held in especially assigned premises which should be equipped with booths or rooms for secret voting, the places for turning in the ballots must be determined, and ballot boxes must be installed. The ballot boxes must be installed in such a way that the voters go through the booths or rooms for secret voting when approaching them.

The corresponding district referendum commission is responsible for organizing the voting, ensuring the secrecy of the expression of the will of the citizens, equipping the premises, and maintaining the proper order in them.

The draft of the Lithuanian SSR law or other decision placed on the referendum must be posted in a prominent place in the voting premises.

On the day of the referendum before the beginning of the voting the ballot boxes are inspected, sealed, and stamped by the chairman of the district referendum commission in the presents of all members of the commission.

Each participant in the referendum votes personally; voting for other people is not allowed. The ballots are issued to the citizen by the district referendum commission on the basis of a list of citizens who have the right to participate in the voting upon presentation by the citizen of a passport or other identification document. On receipt of the ballot the individual participating in the referendum is marked on the given list.

In cases where certain citizens who have the right to participate in the referendum, because of their health or other factors, are unable to come to the voting premises, the district referendum commission on the basis of their statement instructs no less than two members of the commission to organize voting in the place where these citizens are.

Article 29. Conducting the voting

The ballots are filled out by the participants in the referendum in the secret voting booth or room. It is forbidden for anyone except the voter to be present when the ballot is being filled out. A citizen who is unable to fill the ballot out by himself has the right to invite into the booth or room another citizen at his discretion except for a member of the referendum commission.

The participant in the referendum crosses out one of the answers on the ballot: "yes" or "no."

In the event that two or several referendums are being conducted at the same time the participant in the referendum obtains and fills out ballots for each of them.

The participant in the referendum drops all the filled-out ballots in the ballot box.

The envelops with the ballots turned in according to the procedure established by part 5 of article 22 of the present law for storage by the referendum commission are dropped into the ballot box by the chairman of the district referendum commission in the presence of commission members and public observers.

Article 30. Counting the votes in the voting district

Votes are counted for each voting district.

In the event that two or several referendums are being conducted at the same time the votes are counted for each of them separately.

After the commission chairman declares the voting to be over all the unused ballots are counted and invalidated by the district referendum commission. Only after this are the ballot boxes opened.

The district election commission on the basis of the list of citizens with the right to participate in the referendum establishes the overall number of these citizens in the district and also the number of citizens who have received ballots. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes the commission establishes: the overall number of citizens with the right to participate in the referendum who have participated in the voting; the number of participants in the referendum who voted for approval of the draft law or other decision included on the referendum and the number of voters who voted against it; the number of ballots declared invalid.

Ballots with an improper form and also those on which both variants of the answer have been crossed out are declared invalid. When there are doubts about the validity of a ballot the question is decided by the district referendum commission through a vote.

The results of the vote counting are considered at meeting of the district referendum commission and entered in a protocol. If two or several referendums are being conducted at the same time, a protocol is drawn up for each of them.

The protocol is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission. It is sent to the corresponding rayon or city referendum commission according to a procedure established by the republic referendum commission.

Article 31. Establishment of the results of the referendum for the rayon or city

On the basis of the protocols of all district referendum commissions located in the rayon or city, the rayon or city referendum commission determines: the overall number of citizens in the rayon or city who have the right to participate in the referendum; the number of citizens who have received ballots; the number of citizens who have participated in the voting; the number who voted in favor of approval of the draft law or other decision included on the referendum and the number who voted against it; the number of ballots declared invalid.

The rayon or city referendum commission can declare the results of the referendum in the voting districts to be invalid because of violations of the present law committed during the course of the voting or when the votes were counted which have had a decisive influence on the results of the voting.

The results of the referendum in the rayon or city are established at a meeting of the rayon or city referendum commission and entered in a protocol. It is drawn up and signed according to the same procedure as is the protocol of the referendum commission. The protocol is sent to the republic referendum commission according to the procedure established it.

Article 32. Summing up the results of the referendum for the republic

On the basis of the protocols of the rayon and city referendum commissions the republic referendum commission determines: the overall number of citizens of the republic who have the right to participate in the referendum; the number of citizens who have received ballots; the number of citizens who have participated in the voting; the number of those who voted in favor of the draft law or other decision included on the referendum and the number who voted against it; the number of ballots declared invalid.

A Lithuanian SSR law or other decision is considered adopted by referendum if during the course of the referendum more than have of the votes of the citizens included on the list have been cast in favor of approval of the draft law or other decision.

If less than half of the overall number of citizens included on the list have participated in the referendum the referendum is considered nullified.

The republic referendum commission may declare the results of the referendum invalid on any territory because of violations of the present law committed during the course the referendum or the counting of the votes that have exerted a decisive influence on the results of the voting.

The results of the referendum are established at a meeting of the republic referendum commission and registered in a protocol. The protocol is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and is immediately sent to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The announcement of the results of the referendum is published in the press by the republic referendum commission in no more than 3 days. The announcement indicates: the overall number of citizens in the republic with the right to participate in the referendum; the number of citizens who have participated in the voting; the number who voted in favor of the draft law or other decision included on the referendum and the number who voted against it; the number of ballots declared invalid.

If the results of the referendum on any territory have been declared invalid the republic referendum commission may instruct the corresponding referendum commission to conduct repeat voting on the given territory and determining the dates of the voting. Repeat voting is organized and conducted in observance of the requirements of the present law.

Decisions of the republic referendum commission may be appealed to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet within a month of the time they are adopted.

Article 33. Publishing and putting into force the Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum

The Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum is published according to the procedure established for publishing Lithuanian SSR laws. The day of the referendum is regarded as the date of the adoption of the Lithuanian SSR law or other decision.

The Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum goes into force on the next day after its publication unless a different time is established for it.

Article 34. Change in the Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum

A change or abolition of a Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum is made by referendum.

If it is necessary to make immediate changes in a Lithuanian SSR law or other decision adopted by referendum they may also be made by a decision of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet adopted by a majority of no less than two-thirds of the overall number of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. These changes must be brought up on a referendum for approval within 3 months.

[Signed]Chairman of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, V. Astrauskas.

Secretary of the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, L. Sabutis.
Vilnius, 3 November 1989.

Latvian Parliament Wants Environment Protection

LD0201194190 Moscow TASS in English 1933 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Riga January 2 TASS—By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina:

The export of nitrylacrylic acid from the Latvian port of Ventspils and the production of special kinds of paper at the Sloka pulp-and-paper complex in Jurmala resort stops.

The decision was made on public demand by deputies of the Ventspils and Jurmala municipal councils and endorsed by the Latvian parliament last summer.

But on December 28, several days before the decision was to go into effect, the Latvian Government requested that a session of the Latvian Supreme Soviet revise the decision, which will entail serious economic losses.

The government reported measures to lower atmospheric pollution and prevent accidents in ventspils, where enterprises for the transportation, storage and processing of ignitable, explosive and toxic substances are situated. The government gave its estimates of losses from the termination of the export of nitrylacryclic acid, which will entail the reduction of import.

The government also tried to pursuade the deputies that the manufacture of pulp at the Sloka plant should not be stopped immediately. It suggested that the plant's production be somewhat decreased as it readjusted to a different production.

If Latvia stops supplying paper to its partners, they might terminate the supply of rolled stock, chemicals, building materials and other products to Latvia.

The deputies remained firm. They said that the government is too slow about improving environmental protection.

Dispairing, Prime Minister Vilnis Bresis asked from the rostrum:

"Who can assume the responsibility for the situation that will develop in the republic after January 1, 1990, and who can say what will happen to several thousand workers employed by the Sloka factory?"

Then President Anatoliy Gorbunov asked him: "And who bears the responsibility for the nearly catastrophic situation that formed in Jurmala and Ventspils? Who is responsible for the hazard to human health?" Both questions remained unanswered.

Debates Within Latvian Party Described

PM2712165389 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 89 First Edition p 4

[Correspondent Lieutenant Colonel M. Ziyeminsh article: "Latvia: Political Review. Faced With a Choice"]

[Text] Latvia's life revolves around the elections. By no means transitory or conventional elections, but turbulent elections with perfectly defined sympathies and antipathies on the part of the sides. The mass media have published the initial results, but the Central Electoral Commission is continuing to receive protests and complaints. All the indications are that some of them are not without foundation: It was learned literally at the last moment before the second round of voting that the elections in a number of electoral okrugs in one of Riga's rayons would probably be deemed invalid. The blame for all this lies with a technical mistake by the [rayon soviet] executive committee leadership in organizing the elections.

If truth be told, I do not know whether any mistake in such a campaign could be described as harmless. Especially bearing in mind that elections will have to be organized afresh in several electoral okrugs....

Generally speaking, electoral passions in the republic will probably remain on the boil for the next 6 months. For at least that long. Runoffs took place 16 and 17 December in electoral okrugs where no candidate deputy gained the required number of votes in the first round. There are electoral okrugs where the second round also produced no results. Consequently, new elections will be scheduled in these okrugs. It is planned to hold them in early February. That is not long before 18 March, the date when elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet are scheduled. From one marathon to the next, as the saying goes. These republican elections are hardly likely to be over in a single round of voting. This means more meetings, rallies, written assurances and promises....

The reason why I am speaking of all this in such detail is this. Perestroyka in the republic has entered a development phase when its further course and maybe its orientation will be determined by the disposition of political forces in the organs of power. I have already written that the basic line of confrontation runs through the question of Latvia's sovereignty and its state structure. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the political demarcation has national overtones.

Of course, the prevailing situation is bound to affect the state of affairs within the Latvian Communist Party. You often hear it said that there is no ideological unity within its ranks. Hence the stance taken by voters. After all, they mostly vote not for a specific person but for the organization supporting him—the city or rayon party committee, the People's Front, or the International Front. These fronts are now the biggest in the republic. People mainly vote, as one journalist aptly remarked, for a "uniform," in other words for a certain orientation.

Including even the sorry uniform worn by the "Party for Latvia's Rebirth," which, though small, already has two branches abroad. Its tactical directives for the elections claim that it supports every candidate deputy who shares its ultimate goals. Here are these specific goals: "To infiltrate the existing structures of the occupation power, especially its legislative institutions, and then to fashion legislative acts in our own way...."

The question is: Is there any chance that what might be described as independent candidates could win the elections? This, by the way, is by no means an idle question. Some time ago it was put to O. Shchiptsov, senior lecturer at the Riga Civil Aviation Engineers Institute, who ran for election in the same electoral okrug as two other candidates backed by the Riga party city committee [gorkom] and the People's Front respectively. It must be said that Shchiptsov was out of the running in the very first round of voting. The reasons? The effect of, in his opinion, intrigues by representatives of the "administrative system." First, they deprived him of an opportunity to run for election in an okrug where Shchiptsov was personally well known to voters. Second, for some unknown reason, his election campaign material kept disappearing from the polling place. It was allegedly carried away by "absentminded old ladies."

"Go ahead, analyze the list and count up the number of directors and other administrators and functionaries," Oleg Vladimirovich confided, "it seems as if the gorkom wants compliant deputies rather than people with their own opinions. One gets the impression that the apparatus is even prepared to see a Communist candidate defeated as long as an awkward customer is not elected deputy...."

A similar opinion was also expressed by A. Ozers, party bureau secretary at "Teploelektroproyekt," after the first round of the elections. He was the sole Communist among several contenders for a deputy's seat on Riga City Soviet. Nonetheless, the party gorkom called on voters to vote not for him but for a secondary school director. A nonparty person.

Of course, evaluations like these bear the stamp of the unsuccessful outcome of the election campaign of the particular candidate deputy. It may even be a sign of the times that the party committee actually nominated a nonparty person. After all, personality counts for a very great deal.

It would probably be appropriate to ask: Why were these two examples juxtaposed? Primarily because they both concern the Riga party gorkom. As the most visible target, it comes under fire from many Communists and nonparty people, not to mention a number of informal formations. It is one thing when the Communist leaders of the republic's largest party organization are reproached for, say, the fact that Communists representatives of the indigenous nationality account for just over 20 percent there. It is something completely different when the grounds for criticism are the gorkom's stance of consistently defending, for example, representatives of the Armed Forces from groundless attacks and insults. Say what you like, there is criticism and criticism.

Be that as it may, what is the stance taken by the Riga party gorkom in the present complex political situation in the republic? All around, public and private audiences are debating the Latvian Communist Party's future status. Meetings with gorkom workers inspire confidence: They firmly and unreservedly adhere to Lenin's concept of a vanguard party. They advocate that at the present fateful stage in the development of the country and the republic there be a strong political party capable of rallying all healthy forces to resolve the historic tasks of socialism's renewal.

This stance (another sign of our times?) does not tally with the appeals to the republic's Communists by a group of Latvian Communist Party Central Committee members and leaders of certain rayon party organizations. A number of scientific and creative institutions align themselves with them.

"We recognize," the document elaborated by this group says, "the right of Communists in each republic to determine the status of their own organization by themselves. We are prepared to build our relations with the CPSU, union republic communist parties, and other parties on the basis of mutual respect and equal partnership." And it goes on: "The Latvian Communist Party must become a component part of the political system in a parliamentary Latvian state, renouncing the constitutionally guaranteed monopoly of power...."

As we can see, the very formulation of the question implies a possibility of crossing lances. But the Riga party gorkom's stance differs from the stance of another large group of communists in the republic.

In the opinion of a representative of this other group, the idea of socialism "has played a purely propaganda role" in the CPSU's actual activity. The constant main object of the CPSU's concern, it is claimed, has been only the question of power. The idea of socialism or communism as the idea of a "collective paradise" only covered up and simultaneously justified the "cruel enserfment of the individual for the sake of 'common' socialist interests."

Bear with us for a little longer, so that we can grasp this logic more profoundly: "Hitherto, the priority of the socialist idea over reality has enabled Communists to exercise power in its most merciless form, the form of direct regulation of all social processes presupposing direct interference in the course of all events." Therefore, the author claims, it is not surprising that recent concessions by the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee as regards society's liberalization and the timid attempts by a number of Communists to adopt "indirect methods for the management of society" have immediately aroused a sharp reaction from "orthodox Communists."

In the opinion of this group's representatives, any hopes of forming a separate faction at the forthcoming Latvian Communist Party Congress are in vain, which means that the only solution is to leave the party. Moreover, matters hinge on a really minor matter—raising the question of the division of common party property which will be necessary when a new party is created.

These are the opinions currently expressed among Communists in the republic.

But, apart from anything else, the purpose of debates is to protect people from hasty decisions and actions in the future. There is a need for tact, tolerance of other people's opinions, and—in brief—high standards of debate. Alas, the shortage of such standards is only too well known. It can often be observed during events organized by the Riga party gorkom. Actually, others are equally guilty of this, of course. But the gorkom has standards to live up to, and the mass media's attention is constantly focused on it. Any turns of phrase (whether spoken or written) like "immediately react," "dismiss," "expel" are—as a recent meeting of the city party aktiv showed—sharply perceived by sympathizers and opponents alike. Never mind the fact that politics today is an art. It is important for the capital's party committee to conduct politics in such a way as to give nobody any grounds for accusing it of structural inflexibility or of "defending totalitarianism."

Meanwhile the Latvian People's Front unambiguously expressed itself at its second congress in favor of eliminating the Communist Party's monopoly of power. It is acting in its chosen direction with total confidence. In the opinion of Latvian People's Front activists, the current elections to local soviets are a dress rehearsal for the main clash—the elections to the republican Supreme Soviet. Especially as eight out of the 36 first secretaries of party rayon and city committees who ran for election failed to gain the necessary number of votes in the first round of local soviet elections.

On the eve of the elections, the Latvian Scientists Union elaborated a plan for the creation of a "democratic Latvia," also known as the "second republic," and this plan is being widely discussed. The Soviet Armed Forces have not been overlooked in this context, by the way. Their presence on the republic's territory—and mainly their presence alone—is perceived as the most serious obstacle in the way of the goal.

So the republic is eagerly awaiting the Supreme Soviet elections. It seems as if the republic itself has to make a choice....

Latvian Supreme Soviet Debates Alternative Service

PM0101150590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 89 First Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel M. Ziyeminsh: "Latvia: A 'Quiet' Week It Wasn't"]

[Text] A routine session of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet was held 27 and 28 December in Riga, with 32 items on the agenda. But the feeling was that even though the program was very full some deputies obviously did not like the range of issues up for discussion. Judge for yourselves. The day before the session there was a demonstration, sanctioned by the city authorities, chiefly organized by activists of the "Helsinki-86" group, the League of Women, and the youth association of the People's Front.

The demonstrators' chief demand was the immediate adoption of a republic law on alternative service.

Incidentally, the proposed action had been mentioned more than once by the media. But instead of the 2,000 participants claimed by the organizers, no more than 500 turned up at the meeting in front of the Freedom Monument.

Marching through the streets, willingly posing for cameras, the demonstrators made two stops. One outside the headquarters of the Baltic Military District, where they chanted: "Red Army, go home!"; the other outside the republic military commissariat.

It should be said that the central committee presidium of the newly created Latvian Social Democratic Workers Party called upon all social and political organizations and parties in Latvia to stop their political activities during Christmas week—24 December-1 January. Christmas week, the appeal said, in the civilized world, is a time of peace and quiet. A fine exhortation and reminder. However, the call for peace and quiet in the republic was not to everyone's taste.

Passions are raging, in particular over the question of alternative service. It was not on the agenda at the session. But the deputies decided to begin a serious discussion of this topical issue at the January sitting of parliament. A section of the republic's population wants this law to be operating by the spring draft of young people into the Armed Forces. But it it is clear already that senior officials and ordinary citizens as well do not always consider how such a document would be formed in terms of its content to the allied Law on General Liability to Military Service and, in fact, to the USSR Constitution.

Among the questions directly relating to the activity of the Armed Forces, one could note the submission for the deputies' consideration of information by the leaders of deputy A.K. Chepanis' working group to study the effect of army subunits' actions on the republic's environment. It has to be admitted that there are grounds for formulating the question in this way. In formal terms, it is amply justified by the case in which several workers of the "Riga Seaside" military sanatorium seized plots of land in the floodplain of a river for their personal truck gardens. This is stated, incidentally, in the military prosecutor's findings in the case. Although it is also justified when through someone's negligence and inattention piles of rubbish spring up on the same water meadows. In both cases the rules of land use have been contravened. So the military are not the only culprits.

I have often visited military units stationed on Latvian territory and I personally have never encountered cases where any military person has deliberately harmed the enviroment but someone else has been deliberately keeping the culprits from receiving the punishment due. No culprits. So what is more important in this is the question of how to prevent various incidents connected with military activity. What this requires, apart from anything else, is close collaboration between military units' commanders and the local authorities. Unfortunately, this collaboration does not exist at the moment.

This is the opinion of the present writer, of course. But we will soon know what the deputies have to say about it. The thing is that the aforementioned information will be heard in the second part of the session, which, as it stands at the moment, is set to continue on 11 January, since the deputies were unable to examine all the items on the agenda. There was also a wide-ranging debate at the session on the question of amending articles 6, 7, and 49 of the republic's Constitution and also on the content of the declaration on the activity of the Communist Party on Latvian territory.

Latvian Municipal Self-Management Draft Law

90UN0432A Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 23 Nov 89 pp 2, 3

[Text]

I. General Provisions

Article 1. Municipal self-management as a component of public self-management provides for the solution of all socioeconomic questions in the city and guarantees of the citizens' rights and liberties.

2. All cities within the confines of their administrative territory possess the rights and duties of municipal self-management determined by this law.

The Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet may endow a city and also urban communities with the rights of self-management.

Article 3. Municipal self-management is exercised by the permanent residents of the city via the city soviets of people's deputies and the citizens' public self-management authorities (street, apartment house and microregion committees) and also by way of the solution of questions of self-management at citizens' general meetings, the organization of local referenda or the use of other forms of direct democracy.

Article 4. Within the jurisdiction of municipal self-management fall:

1) the organization of management of the territory of the city and its economic, social and cultural development;

2) management of the city's property and financial resources;

3) planning of city development and supervision of this development;

4) protection of nature and the rational use of resources on the territory of the city;

5) solution of housing questions and management of the city's housing, municipal services and civic improvements and consumer and other services;

6) maintenance of urban mass transit, communications and streets and roads;

7) assistance to the development of industry, trade, public catering, the cooperative system and individual labor and provision of the population with food;

8) management of public education, health care, culture and sport;

9) management of the population's social security and regulation of its employment;

10) safeguarding of public order and citizens' rights;

11) assisting the growth of the country's defense capability.

Given an extension of the jurisdiction of municipal self-management in accordance with a decision of the higher organs of state power and administration, these organs of state power and administration must, if this entails an increase in expenditure, simultaneously make provision for the reimbursement of the expenditure.

Article 5. The municipal self-management authorities (the soviet of people's deputies, the ispolkom [executive committee] and the bodies created by them) and the citizens' public self-management territorial authorities have the rights of a legal entity.

The municipal self-management authorities may acquire and alienate personal property and real estate and conclude contracts both between themselves and with organizations, enterprises and citizens, obtain loans, assume various obligations and act as plaintiff and respondent in court, at arbitration and in administrative establishments.

Article 6. The city has a coat of arms, a flag and also a seal depicting its coat of arms devised with the observance of historical traditions.

II. State Municipal Self-Management Authorities and Their Jurisdiction

Article 7. The state municipal self-management authorities are:

- the city soviet of people's deputies (city soviet);
- the city soviet of people's deputies ispolkom (gorispolkom);

- the city soviet of people's deputies auditing commission (city auditing commission).

Article 8. The city soviet of people's deputies is the representative organ of state power, which unites and coordinates the entire system of self-management in the city.

Article 9. The city soviet is elected by residents of the city in the procedure determined by the Latvian SSR Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Local Soviets of the Latvian SSR.

Article 10. The city soviet is in charge directly and also via the bodies which it has created of all economic, social and cultural affairs of the city, adopts decisions, provides for their fulfillment and monitors compliance with the laws.

In exercising self-management the city soviet cooperates with the public organizations and the workforce.

Article 11. The city soviet independently organizes economic activity on the territory of the city on the basis of financial autonomy.

Economic, social and cultural activity affecting the interests of all inhabitants of the city is exercised on the territory of the city only with the consent of the city soviet.

In the event of the city soviet refusing consent for the realization of projects of rayon or republic significance, the question is decided by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet.

All enterprises and organizations located in the city agree with the city soviet draft plans concerning social development, public service, the production of consumer goods, construction, the numbers of workers, use of labor resources and local raw material and resources, nature conservation and the use of natural resources.

The city soviet has the right to suspend the activity of enterprises and organizations if it is exercised per plans that have not been agreed.

Article 12. The activity of the city soviet is exercised at sessions and also at meetings of standing and temporary commissions, working groups and other bodies of the soviet.

Article 13. The work of a city soviet of a city of republic significance is organized by its presidium, which is led by the chairman of the soviet, and in a city of rayon significance, by the chairman of the soviet.

Article 14. Sessions of the city soviet are conducted in accordance with a work schedule confirmed by the soviet.

The time and place of the convening of the session are determined by the soviet presidium (chairman).

Article 15. Special sessions may be convened for decisions on urgent matters. The soviet presidium (chairman) convenes special sessions on his own initiative and at the demand of one-third of the deputies or the ispolkom within a 10-day period.

Article 16. The first session of a newly elected city soviet is convened by the chairman of the city electoral commission within 1 month following the elections, and it is he who chairs the session prior to the election of a chairman of the city soviet. Subsequent sessions are chaired by the chairman of the city soviet.

Article 17. A session of the city soviet is competent if more than half the deputies participate therein. The chairman of the gorispolkom is obliged to participate in the session.

Article 18. Questions to be discussed at a session of the city soviet are communicated and the material connected therewith issued to the deputies at least 3 days ahead of time.

Article 19. Questions are discussed at a session of the city soviet:
at the proposal of the soviet presidium (chairman);
at the proposal of the gorispolkom;
at the proposal of deputy commissions or deputies;
at the request or per the complaints of physical or legal persons on issues within the soviet's jurisdiction;
at the proposal of meetings of citizens or the public self-management authorities;
at the proposal of higher organs of state power or administration.

Questions to be discussed at a session of the city soviet are handed to the soviet chairman not later than 10 days prior to the start of the session.

Article 20. Sessions of the city soviet are conducted openly, and representatives of public organizations, enterprises and establishments and the media and citizens may participate in them.

Article 21. The city soviet may invite to the session persons who are not deputies.

Article 22. The session of the city soviet decides all questions by the majority vote of the deputies present, unless this law determines otherwise.

Article 23. The voting at the session is open, as a rule. A secret ballot may be held on any question if demanded by no less than one-tenth of the deputies of the soviet or when a secret ballot is provided for by this law.

Deputies who abstain from voting on any issue are regarded as being absent and are not included in the overall number of deputies determining the competence of the session.

Article 24. If during the election of officials no candidate obtains a majority of the vote, there is a runoff election between the two candidates who obtained the largest number of votes. The candidate who obtains the majority of the votes is considered elected.

Article 25. Minutes are kept in the course of a session of the city soviet, which are signed by the chairman and secretary of the soviet. The session's decisions are signed by the chairman of the soviet.

While the city soviet is in session and also in other instances provided for by law a deputy is exempted for the exercise of his deputy's authority from the performance of his official duties.

Article 26. A session of the city soviet may examine any issue pertaining to the city, its economy and public services, the safety and well-being of the citizens and the activity of the municipal self-management authorities and also the management of enterprises and organizations, and the following questions may be decided only at a session here:

1) recognition of the authority of the deputies and also the early termination thereof;

2) the election of the chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the city soviet;

3) election of the city auditing commission and also other standing and temporary commissions and confirmation of their chairmen; confirmation of the soviet presidium;

4) election of the chairman of the gorispolkom, confirmation of the ispolkom per the submission of the chairman and formation of the administrative commission, supervisory commission, the commission for adolescent affairs, the commission for assistance to the protection of historical and cultural monuments, the commission for combating drunkenness and other commissions provided for by the law;

5) examination of deputies' questions and the adoption of decisions thereon;

6) hearing of the accounts of the chairman of the soviet and commissions of the people's control committee and ispolkom elected or created by the soviet;

7) concerning a referendum in the city;

8) exercise of the right established by the Latvian SSR Constitution of legislative initiative and the submission of proposals on behalf of the soviet to higher organs of state power;

9) ratification of programs of the city's economic, social, cultural and ecological development and normative fiscal payments from enterprises and organizations of the city soviet and confirmation of the city's budget and reports in respect of its fulfillment;

10) determination of the amount of the city's taxes and dues;

11) confirmation of the master plan of the city and changes thereto;

12) confirmation of the organizational structure of management of the city's economy and the adoption of decisions on the formation, reorganization and liquidation of establishments, enterprises and organizations of the city;

13) determination in the procedure provided for by law of the charge for land in the city and labor and natural resources, the rates pertaining to the payment of consumer, municipal, transport and other services and rent;

14) the issuance of the obligatory rules on questions specified by Article 27 of this law;

15) concerning the leasing of enterprises and organizations owned by the city soviet or, on the other hand, concerning their transfer from municipal jurisdiction to other jurisdiction;

16) concerning the realization of projects of republic significance on the territory of the city;

17) concerning the allocation of city land if this, per a decision of the soviet, is not the province of the ispolkom;

18) concerning the amount of the wages of elected officials of the soviet's municipal self-management authorities;

19) concerning the formation of various social funds and the procedure of their use and concerning the acceptance of gifts and disposal thereof;

20) concerning loans and bonds and other long-term obligations on behalf of the city;

21) concerning the city's participation in the establishment of foreign economic relations;

22) concerning the necessary provision of the city with amenities and its upkeep from the city's resources; concerning the layout, upkeep and closure of cemeteries;

23) concerning the provision of the city's population with accommodation (attraction of resources for the construction of accommodation, allocation of completed housing, examination of disputes between the ispolkom and the recipients of apartments over the assignment and distribution of living space);

24) cancellation of decisions of the city soviet presidium and ispolkom and the rulings of its chairman and also decisions of the municipal public self-management authorities if they are not in keeping with the law;

25) suspension of the implementation of orders and rulings of the executives of establishments, enterprises and organizations located in the city and the decisions of

general meetings (conferences and meetings of representatives) and cooperative organizations if they are contary to the interests of the inhabitants of the city or Article 11 of this law.

The issues specified in clauses 10, 11, 13-18, 20 and 22 of this article are decided by the city soviet by two-thirds vote of the deputies present.

The city soviet does not have the right to adopt decisions on expenditure and obligations not guaranteed by material and financial resources.

Article 27. The city soviet has the right to issue binding rules, for whose violation administrative liability is stipulated and which must not be contrary to current legislation on the following questions:

- on the development of the territory of the city;
- on the upkeep of the land, forests and water resources of the city;
- on trade in public places;
- on public order;
- on the upkeep of apartment houses and their forecourts, residential premises and public buildings and installations;
- on the protection of engineering service lines;
- on the sanitary cleaning of the city;
- on the use of advertising, signboards, notices and other information material;
- on the use of urban mass transit;
- on the civic improvement of the territory of the city and the upkeep and protection of plantations of greenery;
- on the keeping of domestic animals on the territory of the city;
- on other questions stipulated by law.

Rulings and instructions of ministries and departments on these same questions do not apply in the city in which the local binding rules stipulated in this article have been issued.

The gorispolkom communicates the binding rules specified in this article for general notice, and they take effect no earlier than 2 weeks following their publication, except for rules pertaining to the struggle against natural disasters, epidemics and epizootics, which take effect immediately.

Compliance with these binding rules is ensured by the gorispolkom, which creates, if necessary, special monitoring establishments, and also the internal affairs authorities.

Article 28. The chairman of the city soviet is elected by the city soviet from the ranks of its deputies from several candidacies by secret ballot for the term of authority of the soviet, but for no more than two terms in succession. He may be recalled at any time by the soviet by secret ballot in the event of failure to abide by the Latvian SSR Constitution or improper performance of his duties on the initiative of the soviet presidium or one-third of the total number of deputies of the soviet.

The chairman of the city soviet is accountable to the soviet which elected him.

The chairman of the city soviet:

1) represents the soviet in relations with state and public organizations;

2) directs the work of the soviet, chairs meetings of a session of the soviet, is in charge of the soviet's working regulations and signs off on decisions, minutes and other instruments of the soviet;

3) renders account to the soviet on his activity.

Article 29. The city soviet of a city of republic significance elects by open or secret ballot at the submission of the chairman from the ranks of the deputies a deputy chairman, who, as commissioned by the chairman, is in charge of an area of work of the soviet and acts for the chairman during his absence.

Article 30. For handling organizational questions of the activity of the city soviet of a city of republic significance a soviet presidium, which is led by the chairman of the soviet or his deputy, who is released from his main work, is formed. The soviet presidium includes the chairmen of the standing commissions of the soviet; at the decision of the soviet the presidium may include other deputies of the soviet.

The presidium of the city soviet of people's deputies:

convenes and prepares sessions of the soviet, organizes the preliminary discussion of draft decisions of the soviet and notifies the inhabitants of the work of the soviet;

coordinates the work of the standing and temporary commissions and working groups;

helps the deputies in the realization of their authority and provides them with the necessary information;

realizes the authority accorded it by the Latvian SSR Law on Elections to Local Soviets of the Latvian SSR in respect of the preparation of elections and also the recall of deputies;

organizes at the decision of the soviet local referenda and public discussion of bills, decisions of the soviet and other important questions; organizes fulfillment of the decisions of the soviet and the electorate's instructions and monitors their fulfillment.

Article 31. Meetings of the city soviet presidium are convened and chaired by the soviet chairman. Deputies who are not members of the presidium may participate in the meeting with a voice, but no vote. The soviet presidium adopts decisions by the majority vote of all members of the presidium, and they are signed by the soviet chairman. The chairman of the ispolkom or his deputy and also the chairman of the people's control committee participate in presidium meetings.

Article 32. The activity of the city soviet, its chairman and the presidium is serviced by the apparatus of the soviet presidium formed from resources of the city budget. The work of the soviet presidium apparatus is directed by the full-time soviet chairman or his deputy.

The procedure of the remuneration of the chairman of the soviet and his deputy, the members of the presidium and the deputies and also other persons enlisted in fulfillment of assignments of the soviet and its presidium and the structure and establishment and also the procedure of the remuneration of officials of the apparatus of the soviet presidium are determined by the soviet in accordance with the provisions provided for by Latvian SSR legislation.

Article 33. The city elects standing commissions from the ranks of the deputies for the examination and preparation of questions within the province of the city soviet and also for implementation of the decisions of the soviet or supervision of their fulfillment. In addition to the deputies, specialists may be elected to the standing commissions (second version: specialists who participate in meetings of the standing commissions with a voice, but no vote may be enlisted in them). The standing commissions are accountable to the soviet.

The chairman, members and secretary of the city ispolkom may not be elected to the standing commissions.

A meeting of a standing commission is competent if no less than one-half of the members of the commission participates therein. The standing commission adopts decisions and makes findings, which are signed by the commission chairman. The decisions are examined by the gorispolkom and other establishments, enterprises and organizations, which are obliged to submit a response to them within the established timeframe.

Article 34. If necessary, the city soviet forms a temporary commission and working groups for the preparation and examination of specific questions for assistance in implementation of the decisions of the soviet and higher organs of state power.

The temporary commissions and working groups are directed by a deputy of the city soviet.

Article 35. Persons enlisted in work on the standing and temporary commissions may be compensated from the city budget.

Article 36. The executive and administrative authority of the city soviet is the ispolkom, which is created by the city soviet. At the first session after the elections the city soviet elects the ispolkom chairman and per his submission confirms the members and secretary of the ispolkom.

The deputies of the soviet elected members of the ispolkom are obliged to resign their authority as deputies.

The number of members of the ispolkom is determined by the soviet per the suggestion of the ispolkom chairman.

Article 37. The gorispolkom is guided in its activity by the Latvian SSR Constitution and laws, decisions of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers and decisions of the higher soviet of people's deputies and its ispolkom and also by this law and organizes fulfillment of the decisions of the city soviet.

To decisions of the city soviet whose fulfillment is entrusted to the ispolkom it has the right to lodge objections in writing within a week following receipt of the decision.

The city soviet is obliged to examine the objections, and the decision remains unchanged if two-thirds of the deputies present vote for it.

The gorispolkom:

1) in the sphere of organization of state management:
organizes within the limits of the budget determined by the city soviet departments, administrations and other working institutions;
realizes fulfillment by the soviet of the decisions of higher state authorities and notifies the inhabitants of the city of this work;

2) in the sphere of planning and the city budget and finances:
draws up and submits to the soviet for confirmation programs of the economic and social development and budget of the city, provides for fulfillment of the programs and the budget and prepares reports on their fulfillment;
provides for the levying of taxes, dues and nonfiscal resources in the procedure determined by law;

3) in the sphere of possession of property of the city soviet:
concludes in the interests of the city business contracts with enterprises, organizations and the citizens; in the procedure and within the limits determined by the city soviet disposes of the property and financial resources of the city, if the agreed amount is not in excess of one-tenth of the city's budget;
exercises the rights, determined by law, of higher authority in respect of enterprises and organizations of the city soviet;
confirms the plans and itemized lists for the construction, maintenance and expansion of facilities for the city's general use and plans of planning and surveying work in the procedure determined by law;

4) in the sphere of protection of nature and the rational use of the city's territory:
shapes ecological programs of the city and organizes ecological expert appraisal and the construction and

modernization of facilities of nature protection; if necessary, creates special monitoring establishments and nonfiscal funds for environmental protection and the rational use of nature and notifies the population of the state of the environment and the measures implemented for the purpose of an improvement thereof;
prepares proposals for the city soviet on the introduction of a differentiated charge for natural resources;
prepares rulings concerning a ban on the construction or modernization of facilities which have been found negative by expert ecological appraisal;
in instances of the flagrant violation of nature-conservation legislation, terminates the manufacture of products or the construction of facilities and submits the corresponding proposals to the soviet and competent state authorities;
registers parcels of land on city territory, assigns parcels of land and alienates them and settles land disputes in the instances and in the procedure determined by legislation; exercises supervision of fulfillment of measures to protect nature by the users of natural resources on the territory of the city;

5) in the sphere of the safeguarding of the citizens' social and economic rights:
elaborates the city's housing policy, directs the housing under its jurisdiction and exercises supervision of the maintenance of the city's entire housing;
maintains a register of citizens in need of improved housing conditions;
allocates the housing belonging to the city soviet and takes care of the provision of municipal self-management officials with accommodation;
monitors compliance with the principles of social justice and the laws in the allocation of accommodation;
promotes the construction of individual and cooperative apartments;
takes care of the supply of fuel;
maintains a register of the population and also provides for the rational use of manpower and organizes citizens' employment;
determines the days and hours of work of enterprises and organizations connected with services;
manages the city's public education institutions and adopts measures to reinforce their physical plant;
coordinates extramural work with schoolchildren at the children's place of residence;
decides questions of the granting of benefits for children of residents of the city in boarding schools and hostels attached to schools and also benefits pertaining to the payment for children's meals in extended-day schools (groups); takes care of orphaned children;
organizes the protection of mother and child, decides in the instances determined by law questions of adoption [Russian: adaptatsiya] and safeguards the rights of minors;
manages the city's health care establishments, provides for the reinforcement of their material-technical and financial base and organizes medical assistance for the population;
exercises state supervision of the cleaning up of the environment and compliance with the rules of the sanitary protection of water-storage basins, the soil and the air;
adopts measures pertaining to activities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to eliminate them. Given a threat of the outbreak and spread of epidemic infectious diseases, introduces in the established procedure on the territory of the city special rules and conditions of citizens' work, study and movement and transportation for the purpose of localizing the diseases and eliminating them;
takes care of social security for the city's population;
performs the functions of guardianship and fostering establishments in the procedure determined by law;
manages cultural-educational work and adopts measures to strengthen the material and financial base of the cultural-educational establishments;
displays concern for the development of public creativity and the amateur arts;
provides for the preservation of the folk traditions of its region;
realizes state administration and state inspection of the protection and use of historical and cultural monuments;
manages work pertaining to physical culture and sport and concerns itself with strengthening the material-technical facilities;
in conjunction with other self-management authorities concerns itself with the development of mass recreation zones in proximity to the city and their provision with amenities and supplies and monitors the use of these zones;

6) in the sphere of utilities, service, trade and communications:
manages the operation and development of the systems and installations of the power supply, water supply, sewerage and heat and gas supply of the city's municipal service establishments and monitors the construction and operation of purification installations and devices;
enlists enterprises, establishments and organizations in work on provision of the city with amenities and monitors the civic improvement of the grounds of the enterprises and organizations located in the city;
maintains a register of the city's premises other than dwellings and makes them available for use on a leased basis;
provides for cemeteries and individual graves to be maintained in proper order;
directs enterprises and organizations of the city's urban mass transit;
monitors the activity of the transport enterprises and organizations of higher jurisdiction in respect of service of the city's inhabitants;
monitors the organization of passenger service at railroad and service stations and moorings;
monitors the activity of communications enterprises and organizations in service of residents of the city and contributes to the development of telephone and postal communications and the installation of radio and television;

monitors trade and also public catering on the territory of the city and makes provision for the supply of foodstuffs to the population;
monitors the work of markets on city territory and makes provision for the development of individual trade;
protects the interests of the consumers and keeps an eye on compliance with the prices, rates, price lists and rules of trade and services;
makes provision for the enlistment in commodity turnover of local resources of industrial products and foodstuffs;
registers the statutes of the cooperatives, issues permits for individual labor activity and monitors the activity of cooperatives and persons engaged in individual labor;

6) in respect of the safeguarding of the citizens' rights and liberties and also socialist legality and law and order:
provides for both the citizens' rights and liberties guaranteed by the Latvian SSR Constitution and their legitimate interests and protects them against unlawful infringements of their rights;
examines the citizens' proposals, submissions and complaints, monitors their examination by all enterprises, establishments and organizations located on city territory and receives reports from their managers on these issues;
provides for compliance with the laws guaranteeing the citizens freedom of belief, speech, the press, assembly, mass meetings and street marches and demonstrations and other of the citizens' political and personal rights;
displays concern for the legal briefing and legal training of the inhabitants and also for rendering the citizens qualified legal aid;
provides for observance of the laws of the Latvian SSR and other enactments of the highest organs of state power and administration and also the safeguarding of state and public order;
coordinates the work of all state and public authorities for preventing administrative violations and directs the work of the corresponding officials of the internal affairs and other authorities whose mission includes struggle against administrative violations;
within the limits of its competence abolishes orders and instructions of the managers of enterprises, establishments and organizations under its jurisdiction and the decisions of cooperatives and public organizations which are contrary to the law or decisions of the soviet;
directs the work of the fire-fighting service and volunteer fire-fighting squads on city territory;
in instances of natural disasters, catastrophes, epidemics, epizootics and fires implements special measures connected with saving people's lives, preserving material values and ensuring socialist legality and law and order;
within the framework of its competence provides for fulfillment of the requirements of the Law on Military Service and organizes civil defense;
monitors compliance with the laws governing religious worship.

The gorispolkom exercises leadership and supervision of the activity of the administrative and supervisory commissions, the commission for adolescent affairs, the commission for assistance to the protection of historical and cultural monuments and the commission to combat drunkenness and others provided for by law and formed by the city soviet under the auspices of the ispolkom.

The gorispolkom is accountable to the soviet and renders account to the soviet no less often than once a year.

The gorispolkom has the right to obtain from the enterprises, establishments and organizations all the information necessary for the solution of the questions within the competence of the ispolkom.

Article 38. Meetings of the gorispolkom are held as necessary and are convened and chaired by the ispolkom chairman or his deputy.

The meetings are competent if no less than two-thirds of the members of the ispolkom participates in them.

The ispolkom decides all questions by way of majority vote of the ispolkom members. The voting is conducted openly, but a secret ballot is held at the demand of just one member of the ispolkom even.

Article 39. All meetings of the ispolkom must be minuted. The minutes are signed by the chairman and secretary of the ispolkom.

Article 40. Complaints about ispolkom decisions may be submitted by the persons concerned to the city soviet or another body in the procedure determined by law.

Article 41. The gorispolkom chairman organizes and directs the work of the ispolkom, without special power of attorney represents the interests of the ispolkom in court, at arbitration and in other establishments and organizations, issues power of attorney, signs contracts and other legal documents, opens and closes accounts in banking establishments, disposes of ispolkom resources, hires and fires people working in the ispolkom machinery and performs other actions which are among the functions of the leader of an establishment accorded by law.

Within the limits of his competence the gorispolkom chairman has the right to issue binding instructions to officials and citizens concerning a halt to all unlawful actions and to impose administrative penalties in instances provided for by law.

Article 42. For control of the budget of municipal self-management, annual accounts and estimated income and expenditure and the economic activity of the ispolkom and its establishments and officials the city soviet elects for its term of office an auditing commission as a permanent self-managing body. The number of members of the commission is determined by the soviet, but is no less than three, including a chairman. The chairman of the auditing commission is elected by the city soviet.

Article 43. The auditing commission conducts audits of the activity of enterprises and officials of municipal self-management at its discretion, but no less frequently than once a year. Audits have to be conducted also at the demand of the city soviet and the ispolkom chairman and at the demand of no less than one-fifth of the deputies.

Article 44. The auditing commission reports on its activity to the city soviet of people's deputies and submits proposals concerning an improvement in the activity of public self-management.

III. The Material Base of Municipal Self-Management

Article 45. The material base of municipal self-management is state property transferred to the possession, use and disposal of the city soviet and also the financial resources formed from fiscal resources and nonfiscal resources of the city soviet and resources obtained from enterprises, organizations and the citizens on a voluntary basis and also bank credit.

Land, water-storage basins, the interior, forests and other natural resources in the city are in the charge of municipal self-management.

The procedure of the protection and use of municipal land, water, the interior, forests and other natural resources is determined by this law and other laws of the Latvian SSR.

Article 46. The fixed capital of establishments, enterprises and organizations of the city soviet and other property necessary for ensuring the city's socioeconomic development belong to the city soviet.

Article 47. The property of the city soviet is created:

by way of the transfer to the city soviet of facilities of state necessity in the procedure determined by law;

by way of the formation of new objects of ownership as a result of expanded reproduction;

on the basis of property deals and also other methods provided for by law.

Article 48. The city soviet possesses preferential rights of acquisition in the procedure determined by law of buildings, installations, apartments and other facilities which are located on city territory and which may be used for the needs of the municipal economy.

Article 49. Exercising the right of ownership, the city soviet, for catering for the city's needs:

creates organizations and enterprises to which property is transferred for operational management;

hands over property to working people's outfits, public organizations, cooperatives, lessee organizations and partnerships and also the citizens on leasing terms or in another procedure determined by law.

Article 50. The city soviet independently draws up and confirms its budget and submits it to the higher management authorities for incorporation in the consolidated budget of the rayon, and cities of republic significance, for incorporation in the state budget. In accordance with the Latvian SSR Law on Fiscal Rights, the city soviet is guaranteed the noninterference of the higher organs of power and administration in its budget process.

Article 51. The revenue of the city soviet's budget is formed from deductions from state taxes and revenue based on stable rates, local taxes and other revenue payable by associations, organizations and the population and provided for by law and also, if necessary, from bank credit and loans or the resources of higher budgets obtained on terms of restitution and reimbursability. Budget revenue shortfalls are not compensated from a higher budget.

Associations, enterprises and organizations make budget payments per their location and also per the location of their affiliates, structural units and subdivisions. Tax from the profits of enterprises with affiliates on the city's territory is paid proportionate to the number of persons working at the affiliate.

Article 52. The city soviet uses at its discretion additional budget revenue and also the amounts of excess of income over expenditure which have formed at the start of the fiscal year as a result of excess of income or economies in expenditure, including the resources of nonutilized capital investments. It obtains from the budget of a higher component amounts which have formed as the result of implementation of decisions adotped by higher organs of state power and administration which have caused a reduction in revenue or an increase in the expenditure of the city budget. The city soviet has the right to obtain resources from the budget of a higher component in the form of a budget subsidy or financial aid determined in an absolute amount and being of a specific nature. Subsidies and financial aid are not revised and are issued regardless of the results of fulfillment of the city budget.

Article 53. Fulfillment of the budget in cash terms is exercised by banking establishments. Budget resources of the city soviet are kept in state banking establishments or self-management banking establishments. The city soviet has the right to invest its temporarily spare resources in activities of an economic nature or issue loans on the strength of these resources.

Article 54. The following tax and nontax payments are reserved to the city budget and are made in full:

1) fees for fixed production capital and normed working capital and tax on the profits of business enterprises and organizations of the city;

2) payments into the budget of interfarm organizations if the city soviet has participated in the creation of these organizations;

3) income tax on the kolkhozes [collective farms] and income tax on the wages of members of cooperatives,

taxes on the income of persons engaged in individual labor activity and patent fees;
4) taxes on the owners of transport facilities;
5) stamp duty;
6) resort tax;
7) land tax;
8) entertainment (performance) tax;
9) fines imposed by the ispolkom and other empowered officials of the city;
10) amounts of enterprise, organization and establishment creditor and depositor debt in respect of which the term of limitation of actions has expired;
11) revenue from the leasing of city property;
12) the return of resources which had been obtained and which had not been utilized by establishments and organizations in the preceding year;
13) fines levied on enterprises and organizations for having obtained profit (income) by way of an unwarranted increase in the price (rate) of products and for work and services;
14) the amounts of savings from a reduction in the price of equipment and materials;
15) economic sanctions for the irrational use of material resources;
16) subsidies and loans obtained from a higher budget;
17) other revenue to be entered into the city's budget in accordance with Latvian SSR legislation and decisions of the city soviet adopted within the limits of its competence.

The city soviet has the right to also obtain payments provided for in Article 66 of this law which are not part of budget revenue and which are to be used for special purposes.

Article 55. Entered into the city budget are the following controlled deductions at stable rates determined for cities of republic jurisdiction by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet, and for other cities, by the rayon soviet of people's deputies for 5 years:
1) from the sum total of turnover tax in cities of republic jurisdiction;
2) from turnover tax depending on the amount of retail commodity turnover of state and cooperative trade;
3) from income tax of the population;
4) from the tax on the profits of enterprises and organizations which are not under city jurisdiction;
5) from resource user fees.

The amounts of the deductions are determined by type of income and budget depending on expenditures to the city planned on the basis of social quotas.

Article 56. If by way of the application of the maximum local tax and duty rates permissible by law there is no possibility of balancing the budget and implementing the programs drawn up by the city soviet, the soviet has the right to raise local taxes and dues up to 20 percent.

The city soviet has the right to decide questions concerning the imposition, cancellation and the amounts of local taxes and dues provided for by law.

Article 57. Expenditure on municipal self-management is financed from the city budget in accordance with the Latvian SSR Law on Fiscal Rights.

Aside from amounts envisaged for the immediate needs of municipal self-management, an ispolkom reserve fund in an amount of up to 2 percent of total expenditure may be formed in the budget.

Over and above the expenditure provided for in the budget from residual fiscal resources a working balance in hand to cover temporary cash differences should be formed. The amounts thereof are determined by the city soviet. The working balance in hand may in the course of the year be used to cover temporary cash differences and should be restored in the same year to the amounts stipulated at the time of confirmation of the budget.

The amounts necessary for the return of loans and debts and the payment of interest thereon must necessarily be entered in the budget.

Article 58. The city soviet independently determines the directions, amounts and procedure of the use of fiscal resources.

Within the limits of its resources the city soviet may finance on a contractual basis and stimulate measures aimed at ensuring that enterprises fulfill local orders connected with an increase in the manufacture of foodstuffs and other commodities and the development of a system of consumer services and also the construction and modernization of facilities of the social and production infrastructure.

Article 59. Within the limits of the budget the city soviet has the right:

1) to increase over and above the rates determined by the state expenditure on the financing of establishments and measures of public education, health care, culture, sport and other activities and determine extra payments on top of salaries for the self-management officials maintained thanks to fiscal resources;

2) to introduce thanks to the budget and also in a particular procedure from the voluntarily contributed resources of associations, enterprises and organizations additional benefits and aids for assistance to families with children, the elderly and invalids for the purpose of their social protection, citizens who are the casualties of natural disasters and other needy citizens;

3) to render the public self-management authorities financial assistance on terms of return of the resources and also gratis;

4) to form funds for encouraging self-management officials and deputies.

Article 60. Within the timeframe determined by the rayon soviet of people's deputies the city budget which has been drawn up is submitted to the rayispolkom [rayon soviet executive committee] for its examination in respect of observance of legality.

Article 61. Budget income and expenditure should be subdivided by section, head, paragraph and article.

Article 62. The gorispolkom may spend fiscal resources only on needs planned in the budget and provided for in the corresponding sections, heads, paragraphs and articles of the budget.

Article 63. The procedure of the transfer and use of fiscal resources from one budget subdivision for other needs is determined by the city soviet.

Questions of the use of revenue additionally obtained in the process of fulfillment of the budget and also the spare residue of fiscal resources formed at the start of the year are decided by the city soviet.

Article 64. The gorispolkom provides for the accounting of all budget revenue and expenditure and draws up an account of budget fulfillment.

The procedure of the submission of accounts to the higher management authorities is determined by the regulations governing statements of account and balances.

Article 65. The city soviet may form nonfiscal funds for financing activities of municipal significance from:
1) the voluntary contributions of enterprises, organizations, kolkhozes, cooperatives and the population;
2) the realization of bonds of a local nature;
3) cash and commodity lotteries of a local (specific) nature;
4) amounts of income obtained by the city soviet upon implementation of a set of measures pertaining to the solution of economic and social problems;
5) amounts in respect of the reimbursement of losses for pollution of the environment;
6) payments determined by the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers of amounts for having exceeded the limit of the numbers of persons working at an association and enterprise and in an organization and payments of an amount for workmen hired from other regions;
7) payments pertaining to the compulsory insurance of citizens' property.

The city soviet may also determine other sources of the formation of nonfiscal funds.

Article 66. For the purpose of financing specific activities the city soviet is authorized to levy the following taxes and duty provided for by Latvian SSR legislation:
1) municipal self-management duty. The resources are utilized for activities determined by the city soviet;
2) taxes from dog owners;
3) duty from holidaymakers. The duty is levied on persons journeying into the territory of the city and residing there for recreational purposes. The resources are used to form the social infrastructure of the territory and provide it with amenities;
4) tourist tax—for use of the city's territory for tourist activities. The resouces are utilized for the civic improvement of the facilities and areas associated with tourism;
5) market duty. The resources are used for the organization of the development and maintenance of markets.

Article 67. The nonfiscal resources are kept in separate special accounts opened in banking establishments. These resources cannot be withdrawn and are used for the implementation of measures of the city soviet in accordance with the plans it has confirmed.

For the custody of the nonfiscal resources the city soviet may create credit institutions and insurance companies.

IV. Citizens' Public Self-Management in the City

Article 68. The population of a city exercises the citizens' public self-management via its public self-management territorial authorities (microregion councils, apartment house or street committees and so forth).

Article 69. The citizens' public self-management authorities are elected at general meetings (conferences) of inhabitants of the pertinent territory (microregion, apartment house, neighborhood and so forth).

All citizens resident on the corresponding territory who have reached the age of 16 may participate in the general meetings with a vote.

Article 70. The rights and duties of the citizens' public self-management authorities are determined by statutes or regulations which are drawn up and ratified by these authorities and registered in the gorispolkom.

The city soviet may transfer on a contractual basis to the administration of the citizens' public self-management authorities financial resources and property for the accomplishment of self-management tasks.

Article 71. The city soviet and the organs of administration which it has formed and other authorities must examine the proposals of the citizens' public self-management authorities and, if necessary, adopt measures for their implementation and communicate the response within the timeframe determined by law.

Article 72. The city's inhabitants also exercise the citizens' public self-management via the inhabitants' general meetings, which decide most important questions in the life of the city.

The decisions, in conformity with the law, adopted at the citizens' general meetings must necessarily be examined by the city soviet organizing their fulfillment.

Article 73. Local referenda may be organized for deciding important questions of municipal self-management.

The procedure of organization of a referendum is determined by law.

[Signed] Chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Secretary of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

We ask that observations and proposals pertaining to the draft law be addressed to the Commission for Elaboration of Draft Local Self-Management Laws, Latvian SSR Council of Ministers, 36, ulitsa Lenina, Riga 226170.

Ryuytel Views Army Pollution in Estonia

LD2312104189 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1800 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Interview with Arnold Ryuytel, chairman of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium, by Juhan Virkus on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] [Virkus] Today our men, led by Arnold Ryuytel [chairman of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium] also had an audience with the chief of staff. The problem of pollution at Parnu [by the Army] is very grave and not only that.

[Ryuytel] Yes, of course, I at the Presidium, have raised this issue with all the army units which are based on our republic's territory. And, as Parnu has now provided a fresh, and yet another, impetus despite those warnings and promises by the commanders of those army units that in the future pollution will be avoided at any cost in Estonia, these have still not been kept. We have now, today, handed over to Moiseyev, chief of staff, all those documents which have been drawn up by the Procurator's Office at Parnu and by corresponding republican environmental protection bodies, and personally by our deputies as well. I have handed these to him. Of course, I then also officially handed over the resolutions which have been adopted at our Supreme Soviet, with respect to army service and other problems which are already familiar to the public at large. There was a string of points over several pages which we presented to the Union Supreme Soviet for perusal, and today we also handed all those materials over to the chief of staff. Yazov was not then available.

[Virkus] What was the reaction?

[Ryuytel] Well, he, of course, did not manage to look through all those issues during the lunch break when our conversation took place, but he said that, up to a point, he is at the moment already dealing with the Parnu issue; it had already been reported to him. We agreed that in detail, point by point, we will discuss all the questions in the new year, both with respect to environmental protection, as well as with respect to army service and other issues. We will then....[changes thought] We and the deputies will meet again, either at the defense minister level or at the chief of staff level.

Baltic Council Holds Meeting 11 Nov

90UN0515A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 14 Nov 89 p 3

[Report by executive secretary of the council of the Sajudis sejm, Virgilijus Chepaitis, headlined "Baltic Council, Sajudis Sejm Resolve...."]

[Text] **Last Saturday [11 November] a session of the Baltic council took place in Cesis, Latvia, and on Sunday members of the sejm of the Lithuanian Movement for Perestroyka gathered in Vilnius. The correspondent of ELTA asked the executive secretary of the sejm's council of the Lithuanian movement for perestroyka Virgilijus Chepaitis to comment on problems discussed and resolutions adopted.**

The Baltic council is a consultative organ of public movements in the Baltic republics and consists of five representatives each from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The council meets monthly in order to discuss strategic questions pertaining to its activity. Its power is rather significant. For instance, it was not without our efforts that members of governments of Baltic republics met to discuss economic cooperation. The resulting session was basically devoted to discussion of principles of political activities abroad. It was decided to coordinate this activity. Interests of all three movements will be represented by one person. Representatives' offices, which will be established abroad, will be common to all three. One other very important question is the coordination of the activities of our deputies in Moscow because of the recent danger that the USSR Supreme Soviet through a simple majority vote may pass laws which might bring harm to our sovereignty. It also decided to act cooperatively on the question of military service by young people and the presence of the Soviet Army in the Baltic republics.

The session of the sejm of the Lithuanian Movement for Perestroyka, which took place on Sunday, is especially interesting in that all questions discussed—and they were rather important—had corresponding resolutions adopted. This testifies that our sejm works more professionally. For importance, I would pick the discussions about the institution of the presidency in Lithuania. However, it is alarming that until we have genuine democracy and independence, the concentration of power in the hands of one or several individuals can bring great difficulties. These people can have the opportunity to use their power to stop the process of democratization or to torpedo the peoples' striving for independence. The sejm considers that this is the time to develop and protect democratic institutions, namely the parliament called on to reflect the peoples' will.

The demands voiced for simultaneous elections to local soviets and the Supreme Soviet fail to stand up to criticism. First of all, carrying them out would become noticeably more difficult, and, secondly, we cannot elect into local soviets, as long as we do not know what kind they will be. After passing the law on self-government we could, after half a year or a year re-elect the deputies.

Another acute question is that of the military service of young people, because it is one of the main focal points of tensions in Lithuania. (Incidentally, we will discuss it at the next session of the Baltic Council.) Even though we lag behind events, we have formed a commission headed by Mechys Laurinkus, which occupies itself with these questions. They are also developing the concept underlying military service in the Army. The sejm decided to demand that the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] at its next session pass a resolution to annul article 61 of the Lithuanian SSR's Constitution and suspend articles 79 and 211 UK after examination of an analogous Latvian law about alternative civil obligation for those young people who, because of conscience or for other reasons refuse to serve in the Army. They must be given the opportunity to serve a term of labor service.

Much time was taken up by discussions of matters pertaining to the printing of SAJUDIS. Heated discussions flared over the independence of the publication—financial, not political—because, in the opinion of the majority of speakers, financial independence is most demanded by representatives of the SAJUDIS publications. It was decided that relations with editors of publications will be founded on a contractual basis, and the editors, in their creative work, must follow the political line of the program of Sajudis and its documents. The determination of legal relations with ones own press and the level of their dependence appears to us to be of primary importance. Many editions of SAJUDIS have an element of subsidy from Sajudis, and editors forget it.

One other important matter: At last, after the third deliberation, the statute of the sejm was adopted. It is a document regulating the work and activities of the Sajudis sejm. It determines relations between the council and the sejm, how can deputies—members of the council of the sejm be recalled, how commissions work, etc. The statute goes into effect upon the next session of the sejm.

Other resolutions were adopted, one approving the actions of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee, an announcement about events in Kishinev, which condemned the irresponsible actions of ruling government representatives, presentation of events on central television, and others.

Ukranian KGB Chief Addresses Writers Union

90UN0493C Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY
in Russian 25 Nov 89 p 3

[RATAU correspondent report: "Meeting With Writers"]

[Text] Meetings of men of letters with specialists in various fields of the economy, science and culture and republic ministry and department leaders have become a good tradition in the work of the party committee of the Kiev organization of the Ukrainian Writers Union. The latest class in the system of political training brought together for a substantive discussion craftsmen of the word and N.M. Golushko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] KGB.

Describing the directions of the activity of the state security authorities, N.M. Golushko observed that the renovation of the life of Soviet society was being reflected therein in full measure. The authorities' work embodied glasnost and closer ties to the workforce and public organizations and was reviving the main Leninist principles of work.

Many writers took part in the discussion.

N.M. Golushko handed over to the Ukrainian Writers Union the greetings presented in 1920 to S.A. Yefremov, the recently rehabilitated author of the "History of Ukrainian Literature" and vice president of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, on his 50th birthday. Excellently preserved on the parchment were the signatures of P. Tychina, M. Rylskiy, M. Zerov, A. Krymskiy, P. Saksaganskiy, V. Krichevskiy and other prominent figures of Ukrainian science and culture.

Deputies See Gorbachev's Position as Secure

90UN0550A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY
in Russian No 51, 23-29 Dec 89 p 2

[A. Uglanov roundup of deputies' comments: "In Congress Lobbies"]

[Text] More than half of the congressional session is already behind us and our weekly simply cannot keep pace with the events occurring there literally every day.

Of course, these events are covered regularly by the dailies and TV. We, however, try to answer some of the questions raised in the deputies' speeches but as yet unanswered.

Speaking in the debate on Article 95 of the USSR Constitution on the nomination of USSR people's deputies, Deputy V. Kirillov asked: What happens if at a precongress CPSU Central Committee plenum the chairman is recalled from the ranks of the deputies?

During a break, he developed his thinking thus:

"Each time I await with sinking heart the decision of a plenum convened, as a rule, prior to the congress of people's deputies. The situation is such that resistance to perestroyka is very great. It is no secret that it is coming from the obkom [oblast party committee] first secretaries locally. Inasmuch as the majority of first secretaries are Central Committee members, my fears that the leader could simply be recalled and perestroyka left without a head are natural."

These are truly serious fears which may be dispelled or confirmed by USSR people's deputy-CPSU Central Committee members to whom our correspondent turned.

R. Nishanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities:

"In this case, this supposition is quite impossible. As long as the party continues to be the guiding and directing force in our country, the most important directions of our society's economic and political development will, naturally, be discussed before each congress.

"Perhaps the reference was to the fact that some conservative forces at the plenum could gain the upper hand and 'discard' the general secretary of the Central Committee? But this would be a mistake from the viewpoint of party policy also.

"A plenum participant said the bourgeoisie in the West was praising us and that the pope had virtually consecrated our perestroyka. But are we engaged in perestroyka for the sake of the pope of Rome? Or for the sake of some people in the West?

"No one is without sin, everyone has shortcomings, but those of us elected to soviet or party positions are responsible to our people. Neither Hungary, the CSSR, Poland, the United States, nor Italy are an example to us! We may take some good, interesting things from them, but we are doing everything on the basis of our own experience and policy."

Ye. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee:

"Rubbish, invention, and that's that! Absolutely without foundation. Perhaps I will speak on this subject."

A. Vlasov, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]:

"No. This can be ruled out! Every conceivable kind of rumor and invention is being spurred on in connection with the December plenum. This does not correspond to reality. A serious, high-minded discussion of the party platform was held at the plenum prior to the congress. That various opinions are expressed at the plenum does not mean that some factional work or struggle is under way."

G. Gumbaridze, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee:

"I believe that this would be a tragedy for our society, even were such a situation possible. Our entire society, primarily the party, should be doing everything to exclude this and the possibility of discussion of the likelihood of such a situation even.

"I am sure that our party and our Central Committee have a leader worthy of the great era of perestroyka, and we must all be worthy of him by our actions and behavior."

B. Yeltsin, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Construction and Architecture Committee:

"No, absolutely not! I rule it out. I know the alignment of forces well. By virtue of this, I absolutely rule it out."

The deputies and the electorate had many questions and inquiries in connection with coverage of the USSR Supreme Soviet session and the Second Congress. A number of deputies at times have protested against the exclusion from the evening coverage of their rejoinders and speeches. There are also complaints about the stenographic report published by the newspaper IZVESTIYA during the congress and it is utterly incomprehensible to much of the electorate for whom individual voting is conducted. Formally, its results may be published in any newspaper, but this is not done in practice, with the very rare exception (see ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No 48).

This is what Deputy A. Krutov, a television reporter, had to say on this:

"When I became a member of the editorial commission for preparation of the congress, we decided that the stenographic reports and TV relays should be in full, without any deletions and cuts. If such are occurring, I take a negative view of this.

"As far as individual voting is concerned, you need to ask the IZVESTIYA chief editor, who was a member of our editorial commission for preparation of the congress, about this. If he is publishing stenographic reports, he should be publishing the results of the individual voting also."

Of course, the publication of individual voting takes up much space in a newspaper, but the people must know their heroes, as they say. In terms of their attitude toward the problems of concern to everyone, in any event.

There are many such problems, particularly those connected with questions of social justice. A number of deputies and an overwhelming number of voters are attempting to obtain from the presidium an answer as to the reason salaries were raised for party and state executives? Inquiries in this connection have been made to the presidium both at the session and during the congress. But no answer, alas.

N. Gubenko, the new culture minister of the USSR, commented on his attitude toward this problem:

"I take a very dim view of this. In attacking the government, don't forget that this decree speaks of an increase in wages only thanks to a cutback in personnel. That is, if I increase wages for my people, I must make some cuts.

"In any event, this will not be happening in our ministry any time soon, not until the functions and structure have been defined. In all probability, we will be faced with the need to find money from personnel cutbacks.

"In any event, I will not be rushing this. I believe that, given the dreadful difference between poverty and "satisfactory well-being," this would be too early and would also be badly reflected in the party's position in the election campaign. The electorate would reproach us for this, and this is a very dangerous trend."

Gorbachev Signs Kurochkin Obituary

LD0201153490 Moscow TASS in English 1509 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS—It has been reported here that Army General Pavel Kurochkin—a prominent Soviet military leader, active participant in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War, Lenin prize winner and hero of the Soviet Union—has died after a long and grave illness at the age of 89.

An obituary signed by Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikolay Ryzhkov and other party and government leaders, as well as prominent Soviet military leaders, says that Kurochkin's active participation in the Great Patriotic War forms the most remarkable part of his biography. He was at the front from the beginning to the end of the war and commanded that north-western front and the second Belorussian front. He took part in the preparation and execution of the Korsun-Shevchenko, Lvov-Sandomir, Vistula-Oder, Moravia-Ostrava and Prague military operations.

In the post-war years he held executive posts at the Allied Command of the Warsaw Treaty armed forces. After 1970 he was military inspector, an adviser to the group of general inspectors under the Soviet Defence Ministry.

At all of his posts Kurochkin displayed utmost diligence and competence and adhered to principles when tackling problems. He was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, six Orders of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, four Orders of the Red Banner, the Suvorov order, first degree, two Kutuzov orders, first degree, the Orders of the Patriotic War, first degree and many medals.

Sakharov Article on New Thinking Published

90UN0459A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 51, 23-29 Dec 89 pp 4-5

[Article by Academician A. Sakharov (deceased): "'New Political Thinking Is Essential'"]

[Text] The article by Academician Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov offered your attention was written by him shortly after his return to Moscow from exile in Gorkiy at the request of our correspondent N. Popadin. Unfortunately, this material did not at that time appear in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. The reason was the ban which emanated from certain persons working in the CPSU Central Committee machinery at that time. The military also, from whom the mere idea of a reduction in arms, the length of service in the army and its numbers evoked protest, expressed their disagreement also.

It was communicated to us that if we deleted certain ideas from the material, all the rest could be published.... Neither the editorial office nor the author agreed to such a step.

That about which Andrey Dmitriyevich spoke and for which he called, in this article included, is today becoming a reality.

In remembrance of Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov, a great scientist and uncompromising politician, we offer today the full text of the article, which he wrote specially for our weekly.

I am happy to have the opportunity to set forth in a Soviet publication my views on problems of peace and disarmament.

Stepping back from the edge of the abyss of a world catastrophe and preserving civilization and life on our planet itself are an urgent necessity of the current stage of world history. This, I am convinced, is possible only as the result of profound geopolitical, socioeconomic and ideological changes in the direction of a rapprochement of the capitalist and socialist systems (convergence) and the openness of society, given the achievement of the greater equality of all races and peoples not only in the legal but also in the economic, cultural and social respects. Mankind's new thinking is needed!

Disarmament, nuclear included, is an essential component of this process. The agreement on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles which has nearly been reached is a stage of nuclear disarmament. But even more determining will be the next step—a 50-percent mutual reduction in the intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons of the United States and the USSR. This would have tremendous psychological, socioeconomic and political consequences. As is known, the United States and the USSR were close to such an agreement in Reykjavik, but the problem of SDI was the obstacle. I am convinced that a 50-percent reduction in strategic arms is possible and necessary right now, regardless of the problem of SDI and any other political and other problems.

As was ascertained back in the 1960's, and is valid for SDI-type systems also, ABM systems are ineffective and considerably more expensive than the strengthening and upgrading of the offensive systems which are necessary for overcoming them. It is evidently technically possible, at a cost of enormous outlays, to create an echeloned ABM system with space-based components for monitoring and destroying enemy missiles and warheads with the aid of various "exotic" and traditional types of weapons. However, first, all the components deployed in space would be under the permanent "sighting" of the enemy and therefore extremely vulnerable; second, the reduction in missiles' acceleration time would make their destruction in the boost phase more difficult, particularly by ground-based weapons put into space after the missile has been launched; third, the use of decoys imitating warheads and various types of passive and active interference and concealment would make more difficult the detection, identification and destruction of missiles and warheads in all phases of the trajectory. There is no doubt that, given the deployment of ABM defenses in space by one party (which would be a violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty), the other party would adopt measures in all three above-listed areas; it would not in these actions consider itself bound by any limitations, the prohibition on concealment measures provided for by this same treaty, for example. It should also be considered particularly that in such a most intricate system as the SDI, which has not once been tested as a whole, malfunctions and surprise technical failures, including probable errors in the programs of the computer control system, are inevitable, as are "windows of penetrability".

The preferential development of ABM systems and an attempt therewith to achieve superiority would upset strategic stability. This extraordinarily important proposition forms the basis of the 1972 ABM Treaty and has to be taken into consideration upon study of the possibility of deep (more than 50 percent) cuts in nuclear arms. However, given a 50-percent reduction in the current huge strategic arms, stability would be maintained even given ABM systems. Even if in a crisis situation one party with an SDI system ventured a "first strike," the retaliatory strike would, according to current estimates, entail, in the language of operations experts, "assured destruction," despite the loss of some missiles.

I shall dwell on these estimates briefly. It is accepted that if 4 percent of the USSR's or the United States' current stockpile of thermonuclear strategic weapons were delivered to target, no less than 30 percent of the population in the United States and, correspondingly, in the USSR would perish directly from the explosions and fires and 75 percent of industrial facilities would be destroyed, which would in practice mean the annihilation of industry. Considerable numbers of the remaining population would perish from radiation and the use of radioactive foodstuffs and water in radioactive fallout areas (areas of radioactive "tracks" from the ground and low-altitude explosions), from the consequences of the devastation—starvation, disease and the general chaos—and, possibly, from the climatic consequences of thermonuclear war. Thus given the delivery of 4 percent of the stockpiles (approximately 400 standard 1-megaton weapons), there would be "assured destruction." We assume that the efficiency of an ABM system with space-based components in respect of ICBM's would lie within the 20-60-percent range, that is, no less than 40 percent of the warheads would get past all three echelons thereof (destruction of the missiles in the boost phase, destruction of the warheads in space, destruction of the warheads in the target area).

By virtue of the above considerations, this estimate of efficiency would seem rather overstated. There is even less possibility of defense against cruise missiles and missiles fired from submarines. We further anticipate that as a result of inevitable technical and organizational malfunctions 20-40 percent of the missiles (warheads) could not be used or would not get off the ground or would be guided past the target. Thus for delivery to the target of 4 percent 16 percent of the current stockpiles would be necessary, that is, given a 50-percent reduction therein, a threefold "surplus" would remain. The anticipated efficiency of an enemy "first strike" would not, according to the most generous estimates, be in excess of 50 percent, with regard for the current accuracy of strike against the multiple warheads in ICBM silo positions, the great difficulties of destroying mobile-launch missiles and the difficulties of destroying cruise missiles deployed on aircraft and missile-firing submarines. That is, a 1.5-fold surplus would still remain. The adduced estimates should be seen as approximate and as illustrating qualitative considerations concerning the possibility of ignoring the problem of SDI at the time of a 50-percent reduction in strategic nuclear arms.

A subsequent, deeper reduction in nuclear arms, however, is possible, I believe, only given the fulfillment of a number of conditions of a general and military nature, pertaining to the SDI included.

A far greater degree of international trust and the openness of society is needed than at present. It is essential to display the will for a settlement of international conflicts on a mutually acceptable, compromise basis and to achieve appreciable results in this direction. In respect of the USSR greater openness means more glasnost, democracy, society's control of the adoption of key decisions and freedom of belief and choice of country of residence, that is, what perestroyka should entail.

A particular place among the international problems of the present day whose solution depends mainly on the USSR is the continuing war in Afghanistan, which is bringing suffering and death to a multitude of Afghans and the loss of our soldiers and which is a dangerous focal point of mistrust in a vast region. The rapid and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is essential. The use of UN forces might, possibly, be required to stabilize the situation there. Pakistan, which has great influence in Afghanistan, also has an interest in stabilization. The USSR should grant refugee status to all who desire this.

I shall return to problems of the arms race. I consider unrealistic a complete halt to new military-engineering developments, in the related spheres of military equipment in space and the new generation of "directed" nuclear weapons (which, in my view, may only be of limited, partial significance) included. Each side is afraid of losing time, afraid of the potential enemy's technical breakthrough. It is essential to somehow "let off the steam" of mistrust. A total ban would not be useful here. But allowing this race to get out of control would be wrong and dangerous.

During the recent meeting of Soviet and U.S. scientists in Vilnius Prof W. Panofsky (United States) proposed a compromise solution with a direct bearing on the 1972 ABM Treaty. Together with the actions unconditionally banned by the treaty there is in its wording a vast "gray area" of ambiguous interpretation. W. Panofsky proposed the establishment for the "gray area" of critical parameters of the devices studied in laboratories and tested in space and at test ranges which, when exceeded, would trigger the provision of the other party with complete information about the work being performed, and, if necessary, laboratory and test range inspections should be possible. Thus for space-based laser weapons, for example, the critical parameters should be established below those at which the destruction of missiles in the boost phase or some ground targets is possible. In my opinion, this is a constructive proposal, and its implementation would contribute to international trust.

The establishment of a conventional arms balance is exceptionally important. In particular, this is a prerequisite of deep cuts in nuclear arms.

Experts have been arguing for many years here on both the lack of information and the objective complexity and ambiguity of the situation. An important task is a reduction in conventional arms and a change in their structure whereby each party is confident that the other party is pursuing purely defensive aims. But achieving this is extraordinarily difficult!

In Europe, where the USSR evidently has a preponderance in conventional arms, in tanks and artillery specifically, the proposal concerning the establishment of a corridor 150-200 km wide separating the Armed Forces of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and free of any weapons (compulsorily—not only nuclear but conventional also) seems to me expedient. This would considerably reduce the possibility of one side's surprise large-scale attack on the other.

In the broader aspect I consider possible and necessary the USSR's implementation of a bold step, far-reaching in its general significance—a unilateral halving of the length of service in the Army, Navy and Air Force and a reduction thereby in the strength of the Armed Forces, with a simultaneous reduction in the same proportion of all types of arms.

This action by the USSR would be of immense significance for the entire world situation and for averting the danger of war and creating the prerequisites for world cooperation in the solution of global problems and the rapprochement of the socialist and capitalist countries. I would note that the increased cultural level and technical training of the USSR population is undoubtedly making it possible to train military specialists in a shorter period of time. A reduction in the length of army service would have great social significance, facilitating the young men's return to their studies and to productive labor. The money thus released would afford an opportunity for accomplishing a qualitative surge ahead in the sphere of a peaceful economy and S&T progress and in the accomplishment of social assignments.

A reduction in the length of army service and the social consequences of this step would, together with an end to the war in Afghanistan, would be of tremendous psychological and political significance as a visible result of the new thinking and perestroyka affecting all strata of the population. There should undoubtedly, of course, also develop in parallel and intensify other aspects of perestroyka—glasnost and democracy; a renunciation of dogmatism and the surmounting of stagnation in the political-economic sphere; the open discussion and rectification of all mistakes made previously, persecution for one's beliefs included; all this would contribute to the stability and openness of Soviet society and, consequently, to international trust and security.

I have written here mainly about actions of the USSR, but, undoubtedly, each major step of the USSR will have the most powerful repercussions in the world, bringing about similar steps on the part of both capitalist and socialist countries.

Cabinet Resolution on Foreign Economic Activity

WA0201200290 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Dec 89 p 2

[Unattributed account of USSR Council of Ministers 11 December Resolution No 1104: "On Regulation of Foreign Economic Activity in 1990"]

[Text] On 20 November 1989, the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted the decree "On Additional Measures for Stabilizing the Consumer Market and Strengthening State Control Over Prices." This document invalidated for the 4th quarter of 1989 and all of 1990 Article 19 of the USSR law "On the State Enterprise" as concerns concluding economic agreements and contracts for exporting consumer goods and raw material for their production in excess of the quotas set by the plan. It was recognized as expedient to introduce licensing of exports of consumer goods and the main kinds of raw material for their production by all participants in foreign economic ties. To execute this decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet and also for purposes of stabilizing the supply of products for the national economy and overcoming certain negative phenomena in foreign economic relations, the USSR Council of Ministers on 11 December 1989 adopted Decree No 1104, "On Additional Measures for State Regulation of Foreign Economic Activity in 1990."

The decree stipulated, in particular, that enterprises, associations, and organizations when conducting all kinds of foreign economic activity (including direct production and scientific-technical ties, coastal and border trade, and commodity exchange [barter] operations) in cases of exporting and importing goods that are subject to licensing, sign agreements (contracts) and send the products abroad only after obtaining license from organs that are authorized to issue them.

It was declared inadmissible for licenses for exporting and importing products (work, services) to be issued by USSR ministries and departments, councils of ministers of union republics, or other organs in violation of the Decree of the USSR Council of Ministers of 7 March 1989 No 203, "On Measures for State Regulation of Foreign Economic Activity" and other decisions of the USSR Council of Ministers, and also the corresponding decisions of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The government adopted the proposals of the USSR Council of Ministers bureau for social development and the state foreign economic commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, coordinated with the USSR Gosplan [State Planning Commission], the USSR Gossnab [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply], the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties, the USSR Ministry of Trade, the State Committee for Light Industry under the USSR Gosplan, and Tsentrosoyuz [Central Union of Consumers' Societies] concerning the introduction for 1990 of licensing of exports of consumer goods and raw materials for their production by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties for the list approved by the USSR Council of Ministers.

It was also decided to introduce quotas for 1990 for exporting consumer goods and raw materials for their production.

To improve the supply of necessary food and industrial consumer goods for the population for 1990 quotas have been established for the union republics for the export of licensed consumer goods allotted for market supplies.

Licensing and quotas for exports apply to Soviet participants in foreign economic ties and all kinds of foreign economic activity, including coastal and border trade, commodity exchange (barter) operations, and operations through direct ties.

It is prohibited to export through commodity exchange (barter) operations, coastal or border trade, and direct ties the foodstuffs, rock coal, petroleum products, timber materials, fertilizers, construction materials and sanitary and technical items that have been allotted for sale to the population in excess of the quantities envisioned for these purposes by the USSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development for 1990 and the present decree.

The USSR Council of Ministers has instructed the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties and the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems when issuing licenses for the construction of facilities on the territory of the USSR with the participation of foreign work force to proceed from the work done in the USSR for reducing the volumes of capital construction and the availability of skilled construction workers.

The ministries and departments of the USSR, the councils of ministers of the union republics, and other organs that have been given the right to issue licenses for export and import of products (work, services) must strictly observe the established policy for issuing these licenses and clearly determine the functions of the subdivisions that consider the applications for licenses, having provided for reliable development of the decisions that have been made with the ministries and departments that have worked out the planning balances and limits on the corresponding kinds of products. We have in mind concentrating the issuance of licenses in one structural subdivision and taking measures for reducing the time periods for the consideration of applications for the issuance of licenses (these time periods should not exceed 30 days).

The USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and the state Gorokhim association have been instructed to monitor especially the issuance of licenses for the export of timber materials and fertilizers, respectively, and not to allow unjustified exports of these products.

Because of the abolition of the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry the issuance of licenses for exporting the corresponding products is the responsibility of the state Soyuzstroymaterialy association, which partially changes the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers of 7 March 1989 No 203.

Each month the USSR ministries and departments, the councils of ministers of the union republics, and other organs that issue license for exports and imports of products (work, services) must submit to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties information about their issuance of licenses on the form established by this ministry. The USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties has been instructed to analyze all the information and each quarter to report the results to the state foreign economic commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, making the appropriate suggestions.

The main administration for state customs control under the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties, the USSR Ministry of Justice, and the USSR Ministry of Finance have been given a month to develop measures, including the necessary sanctions, regarding enterprises, associations, and organizations that ship products abroad without the properly filled-out licenses or when they fail to observe the policy established for exports.

Article 125 Amended, Oversight Committee Formed

90US0337A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 2

["Law on Changes and Additions to Article 125 of USSR Constitution (Basic Law)"]

[Text] For the purpose of improvement of the legal principles of constitutional oversight in the USSR and delimitation of the jurisdiction among bodies of constitutional oversight of the USSR and the union republics, the Congress of USSR People's Deputies resolves:

To make changes and additions to Article 125 of the USSR Constitution (Basic Law) and have it read:

"Article 125. The USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee is elected by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies from the ranks of specialists in the field of politics and law in the form of a chairman, deputy chairman, and 25 members of the committee, for each union republic included.

"The term of the authority of persons elected to the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee is 10 years.

"Persons elected to the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee may not simultaneously be members of bodies whose instruments are under the supervision of the committee.

"Upon performance of their duties persons elected to the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee are independent and subordinate only to the USSR Constitution.

"The USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee:

"1) at the behest of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies submits to it findings concerning the correspondence to the USSR Constitution of draft laws of the USSR and other instruments submitted for examination by the congress;

"2) in accordance with the proposals of no less than one-fifth of USSR people's deputies, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman and the highest organs of state power of the union republics, submits to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies findings concerning the correspondence to the USSR Constitution of USSR laws and other instruments adopted by the congress;

"3) at the behest of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and in accordance with the proposals of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the highest organs of state power of the union republics, submits to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies or the USSR Supreme Soviet findings on the correspondence to the USSR Constitution of the constitutions of the union republics, and laws of the union republics, to USSR laws also;

"4) at the behest of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and in accordance with the proposals of no less than one-fifth of the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman and the highest organs of state power of the union republics, submits to the USSR Supreme Soviet findings concerning the correspondence of instruments of the USSR Supreme Soviet and its chambers and draft instruments submitted for examination by these bodies to the USSR Constitution and USSR laws enacted by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, and of the ordinances and regulations of the USSR Council of Ministers, to the USSR laws enacted by the USSR Supreme Soviet also; concerning the correspondence of international treaty and other commitments of the USSR and the union republics to the USSR Constitution and USSR laws;

"5) at the behest of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and in accordance with the proposals of the USSR Supreme Soviet and its chambers, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the standing commissions of the chambers of committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the USSR Council of Ministers, the highest organs of state power of the union republics, the USSR People's Control Committee, the USSR Supreme Court, the USSR Procurator General, the USSR Chief State Arbitrator, all-union authorities of public organizations and the USSR Academy of Sciences, makes rulings on the correspondence to the USSR Constitution and USSR laws of the normative legislative instruments of other state authorities and public organizations in respect of which, in accordance with the USSR Constitution, legality inspection by the procuracy is not exercised.

"The USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee has the right also to submit on its own initiative findings concerning the correspondence to the USSR Constitution and USSR laws of the instruments of the highest organs of state power and administration of the USSR and other bodies formed or elected by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"Upon ascertainment of the noncorrespondence of an instrument or individual provisions thereof to the USSR Constitution or USSR laws, the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee forwards to the body which has issued the instrument its findings for removal of the discrepancy. The committee's adoption of such a finding suspends the instrument or individual provisions thereof not corresponding to the USSR Constitution or a USSR law, except for USSR laws enacted by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the constitutions of the union republics. An instrument or individual provisions thereof which, per the committee's findings, violate the rights and liberties of the citizens become invalid from the time of the adoption of this finding.

"The body which has issued the instrument brings it into line with the USSR Constitution or a USSR law. Unless the discrepancy is removed, the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee makes a submission accordingly to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, the USSR Supreme Soviet or the USSR Council of Ministers concerning revocation of the instruments of the bodies or officials under their supervision which do not correspond to the USSR Constitution or a USSR law.

"The committee's finding may be set aside only by a decision of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies adopted by two-thirds vote of the total number of USSR people's deputies.

"The organization and procedure of the activity of the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee are determined by the Law on Constitutional Oversight in the USSR."
M. Gorbachev, chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet.
Kremlin, Moscow, 23 December 1989.

Constitutional Compliance Official Interviewed

LD0201140290 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS—The Law on Constitutional Compliance in the USSR went into effect on January 1, 1990.

According to the law, the USSR Constitutional Compliance Committee will be set up, which is an unusual institution for this country, Professor Boris Lazarev, deputy chairman of the committee, told TASS.

The main task of the committee is to protect the country's constitution and to ensure that all people in positions of power in the USSR and union republics abide by the law. A legal instruments is beilng created ensuring additional guarantees of legality in the country, including the legality of laws themselves. The committee will be able to evaluate the legal competence of the Soviet Government's actions. We shall examine in detail whether the government performs law-making functions or violates the laws. All this is very important for the formation of a law-governed state.

The new committee was analysed in terms of federal relations. Representatives of some union republics, mostly Baltic republics, believed that it would curb their ability to restructure laws.

I do not share this view, Professor Lazarev continued. When adopting laws on the transfer of some union republics to self-management and self-financing, the USSR Supreme Soviet specified that when implementing this reform, one could deviate from provisions of the all-union economic legislation if they run counter to the introduction of regional self-financing and self-management. This is why it is groundless to maintain that the committee will restrict the freedom of the republics in the sphere of law-making.

Lazarev does not support the introduction of a residence requirement for candidates to deputies in some republics. The union legislation envisages only an age requirement.

He also opposed haste in turning over all property to the republics. Union bodies must pass resolutions before transferring to republics the industrial enterprises that are subordinate to union organizations. People fear that the committee will counter emerging separatist aspirations. Proposals have been put forward to give the republics the right to veto union laws or to require the republics' ratification of all union laws before they go into effect on the territory of this or that republic. However, should members of the federation only have to consider only their own likes or dislikes? If republican law-makers could block any union law, we would be a confederation. However, the USSR is not just a union of republics. It is a single union state, as recorded in the 1922 treaty.

The committee will express its opinion of union draft laws and even of the laws that have already been adopted. In other words, it will carry out their scientific legal examination, preventing possible deviations from the USSR Constitution. Apart from it, the committee will analyse differences between the union and republics and between republics and other national-state entities, at their request. In short, the committee will take upon itself the functions of a Constitutional Court.

Human Rights Group Statement Published

PM0201112990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Dec 89 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "In Defense of Human Rights"]

[Text] A meeting of an action group was held 28 December in Moscow's Scientists' Center, at which the participants announced their intention to create a Soviet public committee for human rights and international humanitarian cooperation. The statement adopted at the meeting says:

We representatives of the Soviet public working in various spheres of science and production, literature and art, and in soviet organs and public organizations, aware of our responsibility for the development of the processes of perestroyka, the deepening of socialist democracy, and the universal assertion of the principles of the rule-of-law state on the basis of respect for universally recognized human rights, announce our intention to launch a public movement aimed against any illegal and anithumane actions and encroachments on the rights of the individual whatever their source. We are counting here on broad support from Soviet people, state organs, and public organizations. The vigorous introduction of order in our own house and guarantees of the defense of citizens' rights will enable us, in cooperation with the relevant international organs and national organizations of other countries, to involve ourselves more actively in the process of the assertion of the ideals of humanism throughout the world.

We have formed an organizational committee which has been joined by authoritative public figures and well-known specialists in this field representing various organizations, movement, and labor collectives. The organizational committee's task is to rapidly prepare the necessary documents and hold a constituent meeting of all interested public forces and citizens to create a Soviet public committee for human rights and international humanitarian cooperation.

We sincerely hope that our appeal will also serve as the signal for the creation of regional human rights committees based on the forces which advocate the building of humane [gumannyy] and democratic socialism in our country.

[Signed] T.Ye. Abuladze, I.A. Andreyeva, V.P. Astafyev, V.V. Bazhenov, D.Yu. Banionis, A.A. Belyayev, F.M. Burlatskiy, Vasil Bykov, B.K. Vaynshteyn, Ye.A. Gayer, N.V. Gellert, T.G. Golenpolskiy, B.B. Grebenshchikov, O.A. Dvoretskaya, S.P. Zalygin, G.A. Ilizarov, A.N. Ilin, V.I. Kamyshanov, M.M. Kabanov, D.A. Kerimov, Yu.G. Matveyev, V.O. Miller, N.S. Mikhalkov, N.V. Numerov, B.I. Oleynik, E.A. Pamfilova, Yu.P. Platonov, N.Yu. Reshetova, Yu.A. Reshetov, T.T. Salakhov, B.S. Salyukov, Olzhas Suleymenov, A.Yu. Tolubeyev, N.I. Travkin, A.A. Trebkov, V.I. Tumarkin, O.N. Khlestov, V.I. Tsybukh, L.I. Shvetsova, V.A. Yarin, Metropolitan Yuvenaliy of Krutitsy and Kolomna.

Youth Organizations Committee Activities Examined

90UN0554A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 89 p 3

[Interview with A. Kovylov, deputy chairman of USSR Youth Organizations Committee: "Monopoly Is Revoked"]

[Text] The General Assembly of the USSR Youth Organizations Committee has opened in Moscow. On the agenda is reorganization of the committee. Our correspondent, Ye. Kalyadina, interviews A. Kovylov, chairman of the USSR KMO [Youth Organizations Committee], in this connection.

[Kalyadina] Aleksey, why has the need for transformation of the USSR KMO arisen? Perhaps, and such opinions are heard quite often, the committee has simply outlived its time?

[Kovylov] I would not put the question so categorically. It is not a question of a withering away here but of the need for a revival.

To objectively evaluate the significance of USSR KMO activity for the Soviet youth, we need to return to the sources of its formation—to 1956, when a new public youth organization was formed on the basis of the Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Youth. In the tense international situation and the atmosphere of the "cold war," the confidential dialogue of statesmen and politicians of East and West was impossible. For this reason, an important part in the establishment of such contacts was assigned public organizations, the USSR KMO included.

I would like to make particular mention of the KMO's role in the formation of the all-European structure of the cooperation of youth and students, which was the youth's contribution to the building of the "common European home". Today the committee has contacts with the youth organizations of more than 150 countries.

[Kalyadina] But if we consider not the quantitative but qualitative indicators....

[Kovylov] From my viewpoint, this is primarily the political breadth of the organizations interested in cooperation with us. Today the KMO's partners include young conservatives and Christian democrats, liberals and radicals, centrists and social democrats and communists and revolutionary democrats. In recent times alone, we have established interesting contacts with nonpolitical organizations—young entrepreneurs of Europe—and members of parliament of a number of foreign states. We are moving toward new levels of cooperation with the participation of young politicians of Warsaw Pact and NATO countries and establishing relations with new organizations emerging in the socialist countries.

[Kalyadina] However, there is, in my view, one further most important indicator of the efficiency of youth cooperation: the extent to which it corresponds to the specific interests of young people in our country. I would venture to say that the "ordinary" youth as yet knows little enough about the committee's activity....

[Kovylov] I would say that the activity of the KMO in the form in which it has existed has been known no more than the activity of any other public organization. The "image" of the USSR KMO has frequently been associated with the VLKSM [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League], which has via the committee exercised practically all international relations. At the same time the youth organizations which were incorporated in the committee have approached their work therein in formal manner. The activity of the USSR KMO in the sphere of international youth cooperation has not met with a due response among young people within the country. It was in order that young people really sense their involvement in the dynamically developing youth movement in our country that transformation of the USSR KMO was necessary. A rapid growth of amateur youth associations—with their specific interests—is being observed with us currently. It is understandable what significance for them is attached to the establishment of mutual contacts and an exchange of experience and information.

Account also has to be taken of the fact that the existence of common, inherently "youth" problems is objectively bringing the most diverse youth associations to an understanding of the need for cooperation and interaction. The experience of national youth committees operating in many countries of the world is indicative in this respect. While preserving their specific beliefs and views, representatives of the most varied youth organizations are pooling their efforts, which is ultimately increasing the influence of the entire youth on these states' political and social life. I believe that the USSR KMO could be such a universal structure of the cooperation of the youth organizations in our country.

[Kalyadina] So what are the tasks of the renewed USSR KMO?

[Kovylov] The first and most important one, perhaps, is the development of cooperation among the youth organizations which exist in the country. The USSR KMO could simultaneously represent the interests of its member organizations to the public and government authorities, taking advantage of the right of legislative initiative here. In this connection, we need to establish close interaction with the USSR Supreme Soviet Youth Affairs Committee. Naturally, we will not forgo either the most important assignment pertaining to the development of contacts in the international youth movement.

Embarking on the reorganization of the USSR KMO, we regard it as an important stage to be followed by a new stage—the start of discussion on a youth organizations law.

[Kalyadina] And how will the USSR KMO's relations with the VLKSM take shape?

[Kovylov] All the member organizations—and the Komsomol [Leninist Communist Youth League] is no exception—will enjoy equal rights in the committee's activity.

Incidentally, the Komsomol is planning to give KMO activity considerable material support. As far as the budget of the committee as a whole is concerned, it will be formed primarily from the contributions of the member organizations and donations from various funds.

I would like to mention that the renewed KMO's apparatus will cost it less —it is being reduced threefold. What is more, it is being rejuvenated appreciably.

RSFSR Socio-Patriotic Platform Reported

PM0201135390 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Dec 89 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Toward National Consensus; From Election Platform of Bloc of Russian Socio-Patriotic Movements"]

[Text] It was perhaps the first time that representatives of ten of our republic's socio-patriotic movements had gathered under one roof, as they say. From the "United Council of Russia" and "Unity" associations, the "Rossiya" club of USSR people's deputies and voters, the All-Russian Culture Foundation, the All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, the United Front of Russian Working People, the Public Committee to Save the Volga, the Fellowship of Russian Artists, the Russian department of the International Foundation of Slavonic Literature and Slavonic Cultures, and the Union for the Spiritual Resurrection of the Fatherland. Of course, all these increasingly strong independent formations have their own tasks but at the forthcoming Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] people's deputies and local soviet elections they have decided to act in a single bloc. During the keen, committed debates they also elaborated a single election platform. It is an extensive document, so we shall merely give an account of its thrust here.

The platform expresses serious concern at the economic crisis and the fact that existing national economic structures of management are being thoughtlessly destroyed, including those which could be modernized, for the sole purpose of replacing them with a spontaneous market mechanism. Sufficient efforts are not being made to consolidate society and concessions are being made to separatists and various "left radicals" who are already prepared to divide the USSR and sell off our national resources to Western "partners." It mentions with alarm the fact that certain circles' rubbing out of the "blank spots" of history until they are "black holes" is aimed at instilling a firm inferiority complex in Soviet people.

Attention is drawn to the many negative processes which are continuing to develop in society. Particularly to those processes which are intensifying social tension, causing a decline in moral, and promoting the young people's soulless education. The campaign which is developing for the legalization of private ownership under the phony slogan of the "populization" of the means of production is causing alarm....

The bloc of Russian socio-patriotic movements also suggests ways out of the crisis, ways of resurrecting the national life of the Russian and other fraternal peoples of the republic and of the acquisition of dignity by each of them. It proceeds from the premise that Soviet Russia is an independent socialist republic belonging to the USSR and having every grounds for enjoying rights determined by the concept of state sovereignty.

But for that it is essential to restore or to newly create its own system of administration and economic management which will end the union organs' interference—not envisaged by the treaty on the creation of the USSR—into the affairs of the republic. The restoration of political and social structures is set as the paramount task.

The platform then notes the following.

The territorial boundaries of Soviet Russia were arbitrarily set in the twenties and arbitrarily changed in subsequent decades. If any union republic withdraws from the USSR, Russia will seek to ensure that the republic's sovereignty does not extend to the lands which have belonged since time immemorial to its numerous peoples. An objective, fair examination and solution of this question is needed.

Soviet Russia must have full power over its economic potential, land, water, and raw material resources and cease the uncontrolled dominion of all-union departments on its territory—a dominion not sanctioned by its Supreme Soviet. A full Russian academy of sciences must be created to safeguard scientific potential and the present level of economic and social development.

Soviet Russia enters into equal relations with the other union republics, which presupposes equal proportional political, legal, and economic representation in union organs of power, management, and planning. As of 1991 Soviet Russia is ceasing the pernicious practice of handing over to the union budget tens of millions of rubles which go on subsidies and the artificial improvement of the living standard in other regions—an improvement not backed up by their own labor. Within the framework of the USSR it is essential to observe proportionality in the taxation of republics. Budgetary policy and prices policy must not create conditions for the emergence of disproportions in the affluence of working people of different nationalities. The transition to the union republics' economic accountability [khozraschet] can provide the expected result if it is equitable. The economically accountable prices of articles, raw material and energy coming from Russia to the union republics must be in line with any economically accountable output.

Soviet Russia's economy and industry must be directed toward the needs of the republic and the needs of man. That is a long-term strategic task and the bloc's future deputies are asked to seek its solution. A general plan should be elaborated immediately for Russia's scientific, technical, industrial and economic development, ruling out the further wasteful attitude toward its land and resources.

The country must put an end to extensive development which dooms it to a chronic lag behind many other countries. Modernization is the main avenue of industrial development resolving the questions of the ecology and the creation of human conditions in production. Modernization is the modern way of improving the standard of production and releasing manpower resources for human needs. It is the way to spare woman involuntary emancipation and to return her to the family, where she fulfills the role of mother, keeper of the home, and buttress of the nation.

The peasant is the full owner of the land he works and of the products of his labor. Only the peasants themselves decide which forms of labor and production organization they need. The land can be leased indefinitely to the peasant and his family and heirs but cannot be bought or leased to other people for the exploitation of the peasant and his family. Serious account must be taken of the Russian peasant's traditional love of freedom and his adherence to artel [peasants' cooperative] principles. There have been enough experiments with Russia's land and with the peasant, its sower and keeper.

A considerable place in the platform is assigned to the solution of acute ecological problems.

Soviet Russia's national economy, the document stressed, is based on public ownership. That choice was made in 1917 by the people themselves and no parliament, no government, has the right to change it. Our deputies will seek to ensure that the problem of ownership is decided only through a nationwide referendum.

The people have the right and the duty to demand of the government that it confiscate by legal means from the shadow economy the billions of rubles and other material values it has plundered over decades from the state and the working people. To this end it is essential immediately to carry out a monetary reform or to be more precise the exchange of bank notes ruble for ruble up to R10,000-15,000 per person. The remaining money should be issued on the unfailing condition that the declaration of income proves it was earned honestly and by labor. Let the fire of the people's anger and justice sear the figures of the corrupt shadow economy, the speculators, second-hand dealers, machinating cooperative members, racketeers, swindlers, bribe taking bureaucrats, and all those who have grown and continue to grow rich by dishonest, thieving means. May social justice triumph.

It is essential to introduce a progressive inheritance tax. These measures will make it possible to eliminate the menacing influence of the shadow economy and the mafia on society and to treat in a more balanced manner perestroyka in the national economy. Corruption has to a considerable extent predetermined the crisis. We demand, the platform's authors state, that the management apparatus be purged and that all those who whose their official position for profit and for the flouting of working people's rights be put on trial. We demand that all those who have ravaged the country by concluding international deals in the interests of foreign "partners" be brought to justice. Foreign policy and foreign trade must be under the people's control.

The labor, sweat, and blood of many generations have created our country and no one has the right to barter with its territory, surrendering it to economic occupiers. The bloc is against the creation of "free zones" of trade, concessions, joint ventures of the neocolonial type operating on the principle of "revenue for them and waste products for us."

Soviet Russia is a multinational state. None of the nations inhabiting it has privileges and the principle of citizens' equality operates throughout the territory of the Russian republic. Separatism is unnatural from the viewpoint of its state integrity. This does not impede the development, conservation, and consolidation of autonomous formations and the national individuality of the peoples belonging to the single and indivisible Soviet Russia. Russians have equal rights throughout the territory of the RSFSR and the nations and ethnic groups belonging to it have proportional representation in legislative and executive organs.

People who's ethnic origins are in Soviet Russia live in all the union republics, often in compact enclaves. The platform suggests demanding the creation of RSFSR missions in these republics to liaise with their own fellow countrymen. In cases of discrimination against them

Russia will take every measure in accordance with the international practise of the defense of human rights.

There has long been an urgent need in the country to create a committee for the affairs of refugees and to determine its status. A legally determined and proven status for the refugee should entail the legal and political, economic and moral responsibility of that republic which he has been obliged to leave. A man of any nationality must be sure of the future and protected from encroachments against his peace and welfare, rights and honor.

A modern army, valiant officers' corps, and strong and authoritative law enforcement organs are needed to emerge from the crisis, to overcome crime, and to preserve Soviet Russia's independence and might. The argument of politicians and journalists concerning defense's reasonable sufficiency looks naive against the background of the United States' fulfillment of all its projected military programs. The army, militia, and state security cannot be turned into scapegoats for the blunders in foreign policy and the economy, for corruption and thriftlessness. Young people's defense and patriotic education must be an organic component of the healthy national education of Russia's future owners.

The solution of political, economic, and ecological problems is not an end in itself. It is merely a means of enriching national life and the people's morality, spirituality, and culture. Schools must form a civic stance and patriotism and train a sound and conscientious worker, and not an ignoramus, with regard to all problems. The humanization of the school is a crucial national task and the supreme organ of state power must resolve it for the sake of a secure future for our people.

The mass media now actively influence the consciousness of our contemporaries, primarily young people. There is a popularization of "mass culture," the unrestrained propaganda of immorality and individualism, pornography and violence. All-union television channels are extranational and it is time to end the duping of the Russian people. For this it is necessary to restrict union broadcasting on Russian territory, leaving it with time only for information programs, and to create an RSFSR State television and radio broadcasting committee. The pro-Western propaganda complex is contraindicated for Russia with its great culture. The RSFSR peoples must have national mass media! They must disseminate the best examples of national cultures and world classics. Only on this path is it possible to assert truly general human values and to ensure mutual understanding between the peoples. Under the conditions of the permissiveness that is to someone's advantage, the bloc deputies will demand that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet adopt a law on morality, protecting the spiritual environment from pollution and providing for criminal penalties for the preaching of the cult of shamelessness and tyranny. We are against so-called "personal" mass media whose true owners will be the dealers of the corrupt shadow economy and comprador capital.

The traditional religions of the country's peoples have in many ways determined our national and cultural-historical individuality, our moral and spiritual experience. We believe, the platform's authors write, that the Russian Orthodox Church and other religious organizations can take an active part in the development of the spiritual life of Soviet Russia's peoples. For that it is essential to bring legislation on freedom of conscience for believers and atheists into line with historical tradition and the sociocultural realities of our time.

Soviet Russia needs a political and administrative center for full state self determination. Historically this is Moscow— the focus of Russians' political and spiritual life. For its liberation from the total rule of union administrative structures our deputies will demand the creation of an administrative center for the USSR outside Moscow, the platform stresses.

The bloc of socio-patriotic movements has called for national consensus to be sought in the struggle for Russia's genuine resurrection.

Leningrad City Soviet Holds Special Session

90UN0470A Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Nov 89 p 1

[Article by Leningrad TASS correspondents D.Polishchuk and A.Rachko: "Deputy's High Responsibility Special Session of City Soviet"]

[Text] The 12th special session of the Leningrad City Soviet discussed a problem of considerable concern to many Leningraders. The deputies were to decide on the fate of an experiment. The experiment was to conduct elections to the city's local soviets according to production okrugs. The group who had designed that type of elections was invited to be present at the session.

What Is the Essence of the Idea?

The secretary of the Leningrad City Soviet gorispolkom [city soviet executive committee] V.I.Shitarev reminded the audience that 2 months ago a Leningrad City Soviet session discussed the idea of conducting the elections according to the production okrugs. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation gave its permission to the local authorities to do as they wished for experiment's sake. The idea of such elections was not supported either by the city's population or by the Leningrad City Soviet deputies. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] was informed about the lack of support for the idea. However, right after the October holidays, a group of nine deputies sent a letter to the chairman of the Ispolkom [executive committee]. In the letter, they insisted on a special session which should have decided whether to go on with the proposed experiment. The Leningrad United Workers' Front had also come up with a draft of regulations for the elections of that type and had it published in the newspapers.

The ispolkom discussed the problem twice. They asked voters, permanent commissions, and deputies groups for advise. The Leningrad City Soviet received huge numbers of letters. A hundred thousand people spoke against the elections based on production okrugs; only 3,870 supported the idea. The immediate analysis of public opinion mentioned at the session proved that conducting the elections according to production okrugs would result in a further increase of tensions in the city and could also bring some unpredictable negative consequences. Even by the opening day of the session, there were no requests from any enterprises to conduct the experiment. However, the discussion started.

Who Is for It? Who Is Against It?

An especially polemic flavor was probably given to the session by V.F.Ryabov, department chairman of the I.E. Repin Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. He was one of the deputies who signed the letter demanding to hold a special session.

He said: "Leningrad consists of industrial enterprises and associations and artistic unions. If we say that the authority is born from the most active groups in those places, why then should we be afraid to conduct elections according to production okrugs?"

Here is the opinion of another deputy, the chairman of the presidium of the city Bar Association, Yu.V.Vvedenskiy:

"We proposed the problem of the elections for discussion on 14 November and right after that the gorispolkom was flooded with letters and telegrams. In only 2 days, we received over 11,000 responses and all of them spoke against the production electoral okrugs. On 16 November, we started to receive letters from workers' groups and public organizations. On 27 November, we received 133 letters signed by more than 23,000 people all of whom objected to the idea of production electoral okrugs."

The speaker also mentioned that such enterprises as "Skorokhod" were against the experiment as were voters' clubs and the Komsomol gorkom [city committee of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League].

Victory—to Common Sense

"I have great faith in the Leningraders' common sense. I believe that at every level of the Soviets we will see the influx of people of principle, who are competent and capable of managing the complex processes of city life," said Deputy B.V.Gidaspov, first secretary of the Leningrad CPSU oblast and city committees. "The Leningrad oblast and city party committees and their plenums made a quite clear decision that party members and the so-called party officials, of which we do not have all that many, should run only in their territorial electoral okrugs.

"As for the idea of industrial electoral okrugs, to me it seems rather appealing but not completely worked out. Our soviet will be joined by active persons, party and nonparty members. The important thing is to have competent people who could help to solve the immense problems of the city economy."

Deputy I.V.Krasavin, a fitter at the industrial association "Russkiy Dizel", took part in the discussion. In his opinion, the Leningrad City Soviet of the 20th Convocation was approaching the finishing line. Who would continue the work? The majority of the deputies of the present soviet, as the speaker thought, were honorably doing their duty and doing their best to strengthen and develop our socialist future.

"The elections based on the production principle would compensate, at least partially, for the existing disparity which mainly hurts representatives of major enterprises. These people do not have any time for campaigning as most of their time is taken by production of material values." This was the opinion of Deputy V.V.Kozlovskiy, the general director of the industrial association "Progress." He emphasized the need to revive the Leninist approach to elections based on the production principle. In the course of an election at an enterprise, with several candidates and a secret ballot, an accidental candidate can hardly succeed and one has no reason to fear that the authorities would push through their nominee.

"The election regulations do not provide for experiments," said Deputy A.A.Sobchak. He emphasized his opinion that experiments may be held in any field, be it economy or education, but not in the area in which every citizen decides the problem of forming the governing bodies and does it according to the main principle of the election law—one person-one vote. In his view, the very idea of conducting an experiment is wrong and contradicts the provisions of the USSR Constitution.

Quite a large number of people wanted to speak; 21 individuals took the floor, but many more had signed up to speak. One could feel that each of them tried not only to present his own point of view but also to give the opinions of his constituency. In fact, 352 deputies voted in favor of conducting elections to the Leningrad City Soviet according to territorial electoral okrugs—16 people voted against it and three abstained. The decision was approved.

Financial Autonomy to Region

The deputies at the session were informed about the work on the plan for financial autonomy in the Leningrad region. The information was provided by A.A.Bolshakov, deputy chairman of the Leningrad City Gorispolkom and chairman of the Planning Commission.

The plan's main provisions deal with the present day necessity of finding a special system to guide the development of territorial links. Such a system should provide guidance for the entire country, but at the same time it should be flexible enough so that it allows every condition for developing all the regions with maximum efficiency. The soviets of people's deputies make up the political basis of such a system. The economic basis for it will be created by introducing full-bodied economic relations among the soviets that represent the interests of the people from their own regions and also among their enterprises. The new territorial-economic policy is based on the idea that the region should get independent revenues to spend on social development; it should replace the bureaucratic dictatorship over enterprises and, through them, over Leningrad with a system of economic relations among the region, the republic, and the country; it is based on the unity of the economic and social development of the region, the republic and the country as a whole.

The deputies considered the information and asked the Leningrad Gorispolkom to continue its work on preparing the transfer of the Leningrad region to self-management and self-accounting on the terms of financial autonomy. They requested to have the work completed in the first half of next year.

Prospects of Nevskiy Prospect

The status of the Nevskiy Prospect, the main thoroughfare of our city, ensures a wonderful future. It foresees transportation that is clean in the ecological respect, improved equipment, places of rest for pedestrians, restaurants, fast-service cafes boutiques, specialty stores and, of course, buildings in ideal conditions. According to the plan, a special unified service will be contracted to provide the clean-up and the maintenance of public order. Officials and individuals who violate the status or sanitary regulations in the streets, damage equipment, or disrupt public order will be punished by higher than usual fines. The money from the fines will go toward the Nevskiy Prospect fund.

The deputies approved the status of the Nevskiy Prospect. It will become effective 1 January 1990. It will be revised and reapproved every 5 years. Now just a little is left—to make the plan a reality.

City Soviet—to Oblast Soviet?

As early as in July, the deputies of Leningrad oblast soviet addressed their colleagues from the Leningrad City Soviet with a request to expand the contract work limits set for the Lenstroykomitet [Leningrad construction committee] for 1990 regarding agro-industrial projects. The ispolkoms solved this problem between themselves. The request was denied due to the impossibility of reducing construction in the city.

At yesterday's session, the deputies were asked to present this information to the Leningrad oblast soviet in a letter of response. However, the opinions on that differed. Deputy S.G.Petrov, secretary of the Leningrad CPSU gorkom [city party committee], justly remarked that the oblast should receive help if we want to solve the food problem. But the figures given in the draft of the letter inadequately explained the realistic possibilities of such help. Therefore, it was decided to research the problem once again and discuss it at the next session of the Leningrad City Soviet.

The deputies also reviewed some other problems of the city life.

Krasnoyarsk Official on Kray Action Program

90UN0490A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
8 Dec 89 2d p 3

[Report on interview with O.S. Shenin, first secretary of the Krasnoyarsk Kraykom, conducted by PRAVDA correspondent V. Trokhin: "Second Wind"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—The Krasnoyarsk Kraykom [kray party committee] has adopted an action program of the kray's party committees and organizations for perfecting political leadership of the process of restructuring in the region.

PRAVDA's correspondent discusses certain aspects of this program with USSR People's Deputy O.S. Shenin, first secretary of the Krasnoyarsk Kraykom.

[Trokhin] Oleg Semenovich, difficult processes are under way in the party currently, and the situation in the kray party organization is complex also. I am aware of the following figure: Compared with 1988 the numbers of communists in the kray have declined 1.6 percent. What has caused this? Why is the authority of the party committees and membership in the CPSU itself dropping?

[Shenin] I think otherwise. Let us see how this figure tastes, as they say. What does 1.6 percent mean? Some 3,490 persons have been expelled from and have left the party. Of these, 1,629 submitted applications and handed in their party cards. Has the party's authority declined because of this? I do not think so. No one has yet proved this to be the case. Why is numerical composition taken as the equivalent of authority? Were sociological surveys of authority being conducted in our country 5 or 6 years ago? Where is the point of reference? Voluntary departure from the party is to a large extent evidence of infirmity of beliefs and a reluctance at a difficult time to work with the maximum effort. Others, on the other hand, have a grudge against the party for not having paid them in the form of a career promissory note, benefits and authority, and they now have other similar reference points in groups and fronts. There are also those who are simply confused and disenchanted. An invigorating process of the self-cleansing of the party is under way. As the great Suvorov said, we will succeed not by numbers, but ability. It is my belief that it is not the CPSU's authority which is declining, but people's exactingness toward party members which is growing very rapidly. The plank of exactingness has been raised to a great height, the height of perestroyka. We will take it, rest assured. The party has gotten its second wind.

The plenum which was just held confirmed this. As far as membership is concerned, 2,600 persons had been accepted as candidates in the kray as of 1 November. Fewer than last year, but we hope that people have joined really out of sincere need. The following fact will be of interest also. The kray organization is taking part in an experiment being conducted by the CPSU Central Committee: Candidates are being admitted to the primary party organizations without further confirmation in the bureau. This, in my view, is an example of the real development of democratic principles.

[Trokhin] Let us turn to the action program of the kray's party committees and organizations for perfecting political leadership of the restructuring processes. The following question arises here. The kray has repeatedly adopted various programs, but their efficacy and fruitfulness have been low. Six programs providing for the economic and social development of Krasnoyarye have been confirmed in the past 18 months alone. Did adopting another make any sense?

[Shenin] Those six are long-term programs geared up to the years 1995-2000. They are extremely necessary for they are connected with an increase in the production of consumer goods, development of construction industry and construction materials industry and provision of the kray's public education with highly qualified personnel. But time is pressing and racing along. Immediate practical action is necessary to ensure that people now sense changes for the better.

It was for this reason that an action program, in which the most painful and most urgent questions giving rise to social tension are concentrated, was adopted in August. It was geared to a 6-month period. It contains three sections: Questions requiring urgent, immediate solution, subsequently, the adjustment of the long-term programs in time and the third section—intra-party, ideological and political work. Among the questions requiring immediate solution: Bringing order to bear in ensuring glasnost in the registration and allocation of apartments, scarce commodities and passes for sanatoria and resort treatment, realization of the legitimate rights of invalids, war veterans, Afghan veterans and so forth. We are implementing this program. At a plenum recently we reported to the activists on the results of the work. The situation in the cities of the kray has become appreciably better in respect of dairy products and the sale of nonfood commodities, and foreign economic relations are strengthening.

Such programs have been adopted in all the kray's gorkoms and raykoms [city and rayon party committees] and in hundreds of primary organizations. We have experience and we are prepared to share it with all who are interested.

[Trokhin] Let us be specific about certain points of the program. The following, for example: "Engaging in active work on preparations for the elections of people's deputies to the republic and local soviets. Utilizing the whole arsenal of forms and methods with regard for the lessons of the past elections for USSR people's deputy." I know that the past elections took shape in very complex fashion here. Various informal groupings were frequently way ahead of the party committees in terms of their organization and activity, and their candidates for deputy were more popular. What is being done now to retain the initiative?

[Shenin] I cannot agree that the informals "were way ahead of the party committees in terms of organization and activity." In terms of the noise and fuss they made, yes, in practicality and orientation toward people's needs, no. Of course, we made blunders, and we have, of course, learned from them. Our candidates' rivals frequently employed not very attractive methods, seeking out some flaws in their biography and kicking up a fuss in connection with them. Well, we have to learn to contend and to compete. There is, for example, a difficulty in finding ways of neutralizing brazen, insulting and personal attacks. There is time for bearing this coolly and with dignity, and raking out the garbage and dust from our house step by step. We now have a perfectly specific action program. Before candidates were nominated, the first secretaries held meetings with various social groups of the population. For example, in Krasnoyarsk they met with worker-peasant representatives, higher educational institution students, engineering-technical personnel and the parents of schoolchildren. Then came meetings with servicemen and Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] members. People are coming together. They are putting forward their own platforms based on the kraykom's action program. They have been published in KRASNOYARSKIY RABOCHIY. They are now putting forward candidates for deputy. The kraykom supports deputies from all social strata of the population becoming members of the soviets. There is just one criterion—honesty, enterprise and vigor and a creative civic position in perestroyka.

Much is being done which was previously somehow lost sight of: A political center, voter clubs and deputy clubs have been formed and are operating, sociological studies are being conducted.... In a word, the kray's communists are not about to give up their positions in the soviets.

[Trokhin] I know what a negative attitude the activity of certain cooperatives is causing among the people. The older generation, for example, rejects the idea of the movement out of hand, considering this a return to capitalism. It is the cooperative officials, many people believe, who are jacking up prices. They are buying up goods at state prices and getting fabulously rich on their resale. Does the action program provide for any measures to bring order to bear in cooperative activity?

[Shenin] Nothing other than what is provided for by the Law on the Cooperative System in the USSR. The kraykom task force for stabilization of the financial situation and cooperative activity has drawn up proposals for the removal of negative tendencies. The krayispolkom [kray soviet executive committee], with regard for these proposals, has adopted a decision on regulating the activity of the cooperatives in the kray. Their reregistration has been initiated, and auditing activity has been stepped up. An understatement of income to the extent of more than R110,000 was detected in Krasnoyarsk alone. Some 469 cooperatives have been closed in the course of reregistration for flagrant violations of the law alone. This should not be taken to mean that we have opened a front against them. No. We have supported and will continue to support civilized cooperative workers.

[Trokhin] Oleg Semenovich, we have entered the second stage of political reform. Preparations are under way for the 28th CPSU Congress. But various informal organizations and people's fronts are preparing for the congress also. Political struggle has intensified. What is the kraykom doing?

[Shenin] First, everything to ensure that the struggle not become further exacerbated. Were we to have started, like the Democratic Union, shouting "Down With," what would have been the point of venturing upon perestroyka? After all, we know how long a path it is from any slogan to the real business of creation.

Second, we are cooperating with the fronts and informal groups which are infusing their programs and activity with constructive charges. We have a group of experienced party workers, which is headed by Veniamin Sergeyevich Sokolov, second secretary of the kraykom, and it is conducting a dialogue with the "informals," separating the wheat from the chaff. But we have no intention of embracing those who are openly calling us enemies.

[Trokhin] So you are sure of the soundness of the election platform and the practicability of the action program?

[Shenin] I am. But I do not flatter myself with the hope that all will go simply and smoothly for us. We need to work and more boldly seek nonstandard ways of solving all the accumulated problems.

Kemerovo Unions Protest Slow Action

PM0201101590 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Dec 89 p 1

[Unattributed report on open letter from Kemerovo Oblast Trade Union Conference delegates to N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and S.A. Shalayev, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions: "Protocol Must Be Implemented"]

[Text] Delegates of the oblast interunion trade union conference held in Kemerovo have asked TRUD to publish an open letter addressed to N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and S.A. Shalayev, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU].

On returning to the protocol of measures agreed between the Kuzbass regional strike committee and the commission of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU, we—the delegates of the 18th Kemerovo Oblast Interunion Trade Union Conference—are obliged to note that its implementation is proceeding slowly. This particularly concerns the decisions on the first, second, and third points of the agreed measures. The USSR Council of Ministers has failed to adopt a decision of its own and has handed over to the RSFSR Council of Ministers the question of transferring the oblast to regional economic accountability, thereby delaying the matter. The Kuzbass socioeconomic development plan for 1990-1995 has not so far been confirmed in the country's government.

The demands to ministries, departments, and the government envisaged in the protocols concerning the oblast's cities and national economic sectors are being met unsatisfactorily.

This is not helping ease tension in labor collectives.

It is essential, the letter notes, that the problems of the Kuzbass be thoroughly understood and that the workers' demands put forward and agreed during the July strike be fully implemented. The conference delegates request that the answer to their letter be conveyed through TRUD.

Lugansk People's Front Formed

90UN0530B Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 30 Nov 89 p 2

[Correspondent A. Zharkikh report: "Lugansk Region People's Movement"]

[Text] This is the name of a new public movement formed in Voroshilovgrad Oblast. The first meeting, at which the rules and program of this formation were adopted, has been held.

"We deem essential in the current situation the unification of all progressive forces supporting perestroyka and the ideological platform of the party formulated by the 19th All-Union Party Conference," the program document says. "The purpose of our movement is to awaken and realize the entire creative potential of the working people of the oblast, both communists and nonparty people, express the political, social and economic interests of all strata of the population and channel their initiative into a renewal of party life."

In the process of discussion of the program representatives of the Lugansk Region People's Movement tried to prove the need for the new organization's affiliation with "Rukh." However, the majority of those present advocated independence of action and their own way of solving urgent problems.

A 13-man coordinating council was elected. It incorporated scientists of local institutes, lawyers, workers and journalists. The meeting was also attended by emissaries of the Kharkov People's Democratic Front.

Deputy From Inventors' Society Registered

PM2912154789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "In Central Electoral Commission for Elections of USSR People's Deputies"]

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission for Elections of USSR People's Deputies has registered USSR People's Deputy Nikolay Fedorovich Naumov, deputy chairman of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers, member of the CPSU, and Moscow resident. He was elected 20 December 1989 from the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers on the basis of the protocol of the electoral commission on the election of a USSR people's deputy from the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers and in line with Articles 57 and 62 of the USSR Law "On Election of USSR People's Deputies."

Computerization Training Termed Unsatisfactory

NC0301105790 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] A meeting held in the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Political Training Center was devoted to the question of ensuring an intellectual approach to computer training in the republic.

Information experts, leading officials of the republic's universities and scientific research administrations and establishments, and representatives of mass media organs and cooperatives participated in the convocation. The report read by Ratib Aliyev, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Ideology Department, on the question of ensuring an intellectual approach to the general training in computers and the speeches that were made later on pointed out that the measures required for realizing the republic's complex program for computerization are not being put into effect. The existing opportunities for realizing the computerization program are not being used satisfactorily.

The meeting noted: An effort must be made to turn computerization into one of the important aspects of future civilized life. The mass media must play an important part in the effort to prepare the various strata of people to use computers in every field in daily life. The special scientific and methodical journal on (?information) problems can shoulder a significant part of this work. The establishment of an editorial group for the preparation of methodical materials on the general training in computerization is [words indistinct].

Ziyad Samed-zade, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Social Economy Department, addressed the meeting.

Fight Against Crime in Abkhazia Reviewed

90US0320A Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 3 Dec 89 p 6

[GRUZINFORM report: "For Model Order"]

[Text] The state of the fight against crime and the tasks of the party, soviet and law enforcement authorities and public organizations of the Abkhaz ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] in light of the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee concerning the restructuring of law enforcement work were discussed at a meeting of the autonomous republic's party aktiv.

Having heard the reports of A. Kvitsiniya, procurator of the Abkhaz ASSR, and G. Lominadze, acting minister of internal affairs of the autonomous republic, and L. Khaburzaniya, second secretary of the Abkhaz Obkom [oblast party committee], those assembled concentrated attention on the shortcomings and lacunae in the fight against crime in the region. In 1989 the party, soviet and law enforcement authorities of the autonomous republic have exerted much effort to regulate the current situation. At the same time the efficiency of the adopted measures has been weakened to a considerable extent by the lack of coordination of their actions and an absence of due militancy and scrupulousness in their implementation. The law enforcement authorities failed to provide for preventive measures to forestall the tragic events, which were ripe, and have displayed a lack of organization, impermissible passiveness and a lack of professionalism in putting a stop to mass infringements of the law. The indiscipline and low moral-political level of some employees have led to serious violations of socialist legality.

These and other serious shortcomings in the work of the personnel in the difficult social and political situation have brought about a serious diminution in the preventive, operational and investigatory work of the law enforcement authorities and the present complication of the day-to-day situation in the autonomous republic. A growth of crimes under criminal law of 20%, and of serious crimes, of 58%, were observed in 9 months of this year compared with the analogous period of last year in the Abkhaz ASSR. There has been a considerable increase in the number of homicides, break-ins, aggravated assaults and theft of state property and the citizens' personal property. There has been a sharp increase in street crime and the proportion of crimes committed by those out of work, those with criminal records, in a state of intoxication and involving the use of weapons. At the same time, however, there has been an impermissible reduction in the assertiveness of the fight against parasitism, drunkenness and alcoholism and drug addiction.

All this testifies that the party committees and ispolkoms [executive committees] of the soviets of people's deputies of the autonomous republic are failing to provide for due supervision of the measures that are being implemented and that the close interaction of the party, soviet and law enforcement authorities and the public at large is lacking. Instances of formalism, red tape and bureaucratism in the work of the investigative and judicial authorities have not been eradicated everywhere. There are, as before, instances of a miscarriage of justice and other violations of rules of procedure infringing the citizens' rights and legitimate interests, which testifies to serious shortcomings in the selection, assignment, and training of personnel of the law enforcement authorities.

The meeting was addressed by V. Khishba, first secretary of the Abkhaz Obkom.

Frolov Expounds on New Look for PRAVDA

PM0201160790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 90 Second Edition p 2

[Message from PRAVDA Chief Editor Ivan Frolov: "Word to Reader"]

[Text] You are holding the second issue of PRAVDA-90. It contains the first news of the year and its first problems, people's innermost thoughts and good hopes. Life is continuous, meaning that our tomorrow is always the continuation of what we began yesterday and what we are creating today. Perestroyka is what Soviet people live by now, what fills everyday life, and what we measure our deeds and plans by.

The year which has begun undoubtedly will be a landmark on the path of perestroyka. What should the newspaper be like to promote actively the renewal of the party and of society as a whole? The editorial board recently summed up the PRAVDA employees' creative debate on this topic. Readers' exacting, comradely remarks and numerous suggestions were generalized and studied. I will note, incidentally, that this is not just a tribute to a tried tradition: The wishes and critical assessments brought by the editors' mailbag fully reflect the people's social initiative awakened by perestroyka—initiative which in turn constitutes its chief potential.

The truth—not measured out in doses nor hidden under wraps, but not publicized garishly either—this is what readers expect of the newspaper, to put it briefly. We PRAVDA employees were reminded of this by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the memorable meeting in the editorial office. It is a question of the truth in the Leninist meaning of the word, which at one time in the past was made the newspaper's name. Now too, when difficult revolutionary work is under way in the country, people want precisely the truth. "We cannot live on half-truths," party veteran M. Popov writes the editors from Desnogorsk City in Smolensk Oblast. He explains his thought: We must not lull ourselves with hopes of "good fortune," but neither must we shy away from difficulties that arise. We must honestly assess our own history, without renouncing either its glorious or its bitter pages. We must develop democratic norms of life, at the same time, elevating man and humanity in every possible way.

It is precisely the desire to be closer to people and to their affairs and concerns that dictates the determination of PRAVDA employees to "deformalize" the newspaper and to abandon the conventional stereotypes and didactic intonations of which it was frequently guilty in the past. At the same time, we are conscious of our responsibility for ensuring that PRAVDA actively aids the profound theoretical interpretation of modern social processes and of the essence and purpose of perestroyka. With regard to this, PRAVDA's pages will be made available for a keen comparison of views on specific questions of the renewal of society and, above all, of the party itself. This is the most important thing for us now—the renewal and perestroyka of the party. Otherwise, it will not be able to be the true vanguard of society. For example, the first issue of the revived "Discussion Leaflet," which will serve to prepare for the 28th Party Congress, has already been published. PRAVDA increasingly will become a platform for debate, for a display of dissidence and socialist pluralism of opinions. Only in this way will we be able to find the truth both about the ways our society is developing and about ourselves—about who we are, what we want, and where we are going. The newspaper's articles and its discussion of the draft precongress documents—the political platform and statutes of the CPSU—must actively promote the party's transformation and its acquisition of a fundamentally new character. The most important thing, however, is what is happening in life itself, in party organizations, in the destiny of every Communist. We will devote chief attention to this, publishing articles by representatives of various strata and professions and, of course, their letters. We are also responding to the readers' wish that we publish interviews with party and state leaders and make public their opinions and views on social processes. Readers may rest assured that the editorial collective will endeavor to involve the best intellectual forces of society in discussing the most acute problems of life.

One of the persistent requests frequently put to the newspaper in the mail is for it to clearly express a principled stand on all questions of our diverse reality. This does not mean, of course, that PRAVDA must be direct and categorical. But people rightly expect from it a competent and considered analysis of the processes of perestroyka, clear assessments of what has been achieved and, at the same time, of negative phenomena, the surmounting of social mythology, and help in consolidating all forces in the name of reviving our revolutionary ideals.

The activity of our collective of journalists will be based on party-mindedness, which for us is inseparable from the objectivity, veracity, and accuracy of the printed word. I mean party-mindedness in its lofty ideological-political and moral sense, not in its formal bureaucratic sense, which presents itself as an "ultraparty-mindedness" which, however, disintegrates at the first serious test. I would like to point out in this connection that PRAVDA can be neither "left-wing" nor "right-wing" nor "conservative" nor "ultraradical." Such a "geometric," "black-and-white" approach does not do for us. PRAVDA must be and will be a serious, honest, principled newspaper marching with the party in the vanguard of revolutionary changes toward a new humane and democratic socialism.

It is natural for people to value what unites them. This is the land on which they were born and which feeds them. It is the common memory nourished by the history and culture of the home region. It is joint labor in which every people's talent and spiritual wealth are manifested. Finally, it is the future of the children, who also have to live together on our planet. Letters to the editors speak about all this. This is why you, the reader, are the newspaper's most wanted author. This invitation is not just a declaration: The 8-page daily issue of PRAVDA in the new year will enable you to write in every issue. And there can be no thematic barriers here—everything that enriches or alarms a person will constitute the newspaper's contents: Whether it is a question of great state and party problems or questions of the consumer market, housing, or the services sphere, or of the moral cleansing of society, or of our comprehension of the greatest values of Soviet and world culture.

The new year, 1990, has come into its own—a year of our anxiety and our hope. It is a year of anxiety because very acute, urgent problems remain in it which must be resolved as quickly as possible—those of improving the economy and easing social tension, including national conflicts.

And yet, it is a year of hope, not ephemeral and wordy but with a sound basis—the policy of perestroyka and the qualitatively new international climate created in recent years by our country's strenuous foreign policy efforts. I cannot fail to mention also the distinctive continuation of the perestroyka processes—the stormy and at times explosive things happening in the countries of East Europe. All this attests that socialism is really striving for—and, most importantly, is capable of—radical renewal on the principles of democracy and humanism. This is precisely how Marx, Engels, and Lenin saw the new society. We remain true to the creative spirit of their teaching, to the socialist choice, to the great October cause.

...Time does not wait. The days of the new year are being counted off. The newspaper is continuing its chronicle of life. What pages it will be filled with and what it will tell each of its contemporaries depends on our work and yours, dear reader. We are open to dialogue, debate, and a search for new and creative construction.

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Claims 'Central' Line

LD0201155590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Inteview with Vladislav Starkov, chief editor of the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, by correspondent Aleksandr Zhetvin, on 1 January, location not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Zhetvin] Vladislav Andreyevich, glasnost is the conversational language of facts and arguments. What is the circulation of your publication ARGUMENTY I FAKTY now by the way?

[Starkov] At present accurate figures we have 32,780,400 copies, which is nearly 33,000,000 so one can speak of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in the new year having nearly 33,000,000 readers, and if you take into account that each number is read by more than one person, it has a huge readership. [passage omitted]

A very interesting piece of material is Foreign Ministry: Open Doors Day. I think this is a very good initiative for a such a formerly closed institution as the Foreign Ministry. Comrade Shevardnadze will meet workers, representatives of the public, really practically anyone who wants can come to the Foreign Ministry and talk to the foreign minister.

[Zhetvin] The KGB has already opened its doors a little.

[Starkov] we are some of the few of those invited to the meeting and are making a report from there. [passage omitted]

[Zhetvin] Your collective, in its work, demonstrates, I think, a new perfected type of journalism, or rather publicity: publicity in the language of facts and arguments, information publicity.

[Starkov] That is correct, it cannot be said that in our work we are infallible and have achieved everything; we make mistakes and we have many disputes in the editorial office. What we reckon to have is not in any event either a radicals' or conservatives' paper. We have always striven and will always strive to adhere to a central position. We see our present situation as the struggle which is natural for the situation which the country is going through.

[Zhetvin] Vladislav Andreyevich, may I ask a personal question?

[Starkov] Of course.

[Zhetvin] Your candidature, that of Starkov, has been submitted as candidate people's deputy of the USSR in a vacant constituency, correct?

[Starkov] Yes, Ukhta.

[Zhetvin] In Ukhta. What are the prospects there?

[Starkov] I would say I have rivals worthy of me there and I respect them profoundly. The elections there are on 14 January. I have travelled there for the registration.

[Zhetvin] And who else is there alongside you?

[Starkov] First Secretary of the Oblast Committee Comrade Spiridonov, and another six persons in all. There are many candidates. It'll be a fight, but a fair fight, I think.

[Zhetvin] Thank you for the interview, I wish you all the best in the new year, to you and your collective, so that the cause of glasnost may move forward.

ECOTASS To Carry Business Advertisements

LD0201161190 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS—The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (TASS) offers new services to Soviet and foreign businessmen. TASS economic publications, ECOTASS, will now publish business advertisments for foreign and Soviet firms, as well as their proposals on cooperation.

Subscribers will be able to announce what goods and services they have on sale, what they would like to buy in the USSR or abroad and in what spheres of the economy they would like to have commercial contacts, coproduction or joint ventures.

The new service is not expensive: 450 foreign currency roubles for a column in ECOTASS, all discounts on the repetition and regularity of advertisments apply. Please inquire either by telex 411186 or mail: The Soviet Union, Moscow, Tverskoy Boulevard 10/12, ECOTASS. Moscow telephone: 202-01-73.

The ECOTASS bulletins were established 25 years ago. They are issued weekly in four languages (English, French, German and Italian). More detailed issues are published daily in Russian and English.

The bulletins reflect trends and concrete directions in the Soviet Union's foreign economic ties with foreign partners, publish Soviet legal documents in this sphere and report on existing and future contracts.

In short, subcribers receive all the necessary information for businessmen to operate on the Soviet market.

Lithuanian Newspaper Changes Name

LD0301110790 Vilnius in Lithuanian to North America 0100 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Summary] KOMJAUNIMO TIESA, the largest newspaper with a circulation over half a million, has changed its name. From 1 January the paper is published under the name of LIETUVOS RYTAS.

Vilnius 'Youth Radio' Opens 1 Jan 1990

LD2812185289 Hamburg DPA in German 1600 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Vilnius/Stuttgart (DPA)—Beginning 1 January 1990, the first radio station in the Soviet Union independent of the state, to be called "Youth Radio M1," will go on the air with support from South German Radio [SDR] in Stuttgart. Relevant information from SDR was confirmed today in Vilnius.

SDR has helped the makers of "Youth Radio M1's" 6 hours of programs, which can be heard in Russian and Lithuanian on VHF in the new year, with technical expertise and musical material. According to SDR, it was possible to purchase equipment for the Lithuanian station with donations from two firms and a political party.

Newspapers Launched in Kazakhstan

LD0301094490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Summary] The newspapers ARKALYKSKAYA ZARYA and (ARKALYK ARAYI UYL) have been revived in Aerkalyk in Kazamhstand. (MOMMUNISTIK ZHEL)—The Communist Path—the new organ of the city committee of the party and the city soviet, has been launched in Shevchenko. In North Kazakhstan oblast, the first rayon newspaper in the Kazakh language, called (AUL ARAYI UYL) Rural Dawn—has been launched in Dzhambulskiy rayon. Novyy Uzen in Guryev oblast now has its own publication, (ZHANA OZEN).

The new papers will cover the socio-political and economic life of their regions as well as issues of international education."

First Nivkh Language Paper Published in Sakhalin

LD0201113290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Summary] The first edition of the only newspaper in the USSR to be issued in the Nivkh language came out in Okha on Sakhalin on 1 January. It is called NIV KHDIV, meaning Nivkh word. It aims to preserve and increase the language and traditions of the Nivkh people.

New Magazine in Ivanovo Oblast

LD0201035890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0300 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Excerpt] This new year a number of new media organs have appeared in our country. This has been reported to us from several town. This morning the residents of Ivanovo Oblast received a new publication, VSTRECHA. It is a literary and current affairs supplement to the oblast's newspaper RABOCHIY KRAY. [passage omitted]

Petrodvorets Newspaper Resumes Publication

LD0101101990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Summary] Thousands of inhabitants of the town of Petrodvorets today received a copy of the first issue of PETERSBURGSKIY VESTNIK, a rayon newspaper, through the post. This newspaper came out in 1918, but 65 years later its publication was halted. Subscribers have now regained their popular newspaper.

New Leningrad Newspaper on Sale

LD2712214489 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Summary] A new newspaper, NEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI is on sale for the first time today in Leningrad. It covers the latest news, and also focusses on the history and heritage of Leningrad. Its message is especially directed at young people.

New Aviation Weekly Published in Uzbekistan

LD0301110390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Summary] The first issue of the KRYLYA UZBEKISTANA weekly in Russian has been brought out by the Uzbek Civil Aviation Directorate. The newspaper will also be published in the Uzbek language.

New Radio Programs, Formats Described

LD3112204289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 89

[All times Moscow time, GMT plus 3]

[Text] What will we be like in 1990? An interview with (Aleksandr Ivanovich Akhtyrskiy), director of the Main Directorate of Programs of All-Union Radio.

[Unidentified correspondent] Aleksandr Ivanovich, we have become accustomed to radio presenting only music, not gifts: request concerts and plays. What gift will All-Union Radio give to its listeners? Well, let us begin with the First Program, the main one; that is why it is the first one.

[(Akhtyrskiy)] As far as the First Program is concerned, maybe there are not many changes here at first sight, but they are very important ones. Above all, I have the morning in mind. The morning is the most active time for radio listeners. In the morning hours, from 6 to 8, in that space, a new information and current affairs program is appearing, with this clear name—Morning. It is two half-hour programs, 0630 to 0700 and 0730 to 0800, and it is proposed to give the very most, in other words everything by which our country and the whole world is living today, in precisely those two half-hour programs. The main editorial office for information is expected to provide the maximum information on our main, First Program.

For a specific audience, with its established tastes, it is proposed to prepare a program that is constantly new. For the first 2 months—I think that it will be every day except Saturday and Sunday, from 0900 to 1400—on the airwaves of the Third Program there will be the program Interlocutor [Sobesednik], which will have, as they say, a broad range of interests, aimed at an educated audience—I consider our veterans an educated audience—where account will be taken of their interests, needs, their desire to listen to good literary classics and classical literature, their desire to hear some practical advice from doctors and lawyers, all the more so now that this problem is a very acute one, the problem of social provisions, the problem of pensions.

[Correspondent] Will something be done for those who like classical music?

[(Akhtyrskiy)] Of course. Well, first the morning period. From 0600 to 0900, when Mayak is on, and when the youth channel on the Third Program is operating, there will be a program on the Fourth Program which we are calling Orpheus at the moment. It is a program which will be based on the top classical music. Indeed, the Fourth Program is itself entirely based on the clasics, on serious music, both contemporary and from past years. I think that it will give our listeners the possibility of choosing. This problem of choice, the possibility of getting what interests you on the various channels, various programs, is our main task. I would very much like to hope that these innovations, and we have not spoken about all of them, just the main ones, are to the taste of our audience, all our listeners.

Weekly for Railway Troops Issued in Sverdlovsk

LD0101163690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Summary] The first issue of VOYENNYY ZHELEZNODOROZHNIK [Military Railwaymen] a weekly newspaper for Soviet railway troops, has been published in Sverdlovsk. The newspaper has 16 pages and costs 10 kopeks. Its deputy editor, Veniamin Sergeyevich Shchoktov, denied the suggestion that the railway troops are a source of cheap labor, saying that they have specialized peacetime and wartime roles. The newspaper will cover the railway troops' latest construction assignments, and will also carry other features.

Journalist Scores Increase In Party Salaries

LD0201135090 Vilnius GIMTASIS KRASTAS in Lithuanian No 49, 7-13 Dec 89 p 6

["Readers's Letter," from Party Publication Journalist and Party Member Vilius Kavaliauskas: "Let Us Return The Money—Perhaps Trust Will Also Be Found."]

[Text] The Party budget is comprised of membership fees and the income from the Party press. I support it in a double capacity: as a regular party member and as a journalist of a party publication. I also happen to be of the opinion that regular party members should know where their money goes and for what purposes it is allocated. Within the Laws of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the order of financial distribution is hazy, thus allowing the party apparatus to disburse our money in any manner it sees fit.

An almost 50% increase in party workers' salaries is an example of such selfish activity. Did the party officials who passed this resolution consult the party? Do party workers have the moral right to "gift themselves" rather than assume the responsibility for the catastrophic situation within the economy, especially in view of the fact that minimal pensions are simply beggarly while inflation is consuming the remains of the savings of the elderly.

I have no desire to urge us back to "militant communism," however, there exists a law in Albania, for instance, that does not allow distancing oneself from the people. There, a minister is not allowed to earn more than 2.5 times the salary of the least-salaried worker. Whereas, here?

I consider such a step by the party apparatus as contrary to the anti-inflationary measures planned in Lithuania. If this is being excused as a decision handed down from Moscow, let us then manifest some independence. **I invite Lithuanian Communist Party leaders to refuse publicly the raise in apparatus salaries.** Money, unsubstantiated by goods, even if it is sent from Moscow, will not improve the quality of life in Lithuania. This is not the way for party leadership to fight for the trust of the people. Rather, let the party funds go to those desolate and poverty-strickenm people who stand as a living reproach to us "members of the leading and driving force of Soviet society."

Marshal Zhukov's Uncensored Memoirs Published

90US0233A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Nov 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Article by G. Alimov: "Marshal Zhukov. Unknown Pages of Memoirs. Famous Book Appears For the First Time Without Cuts"]

[Text] APN Publishers, who possess exclusive rights to publication of the memoirs of Marshal G.K. Zhukov *Memories and Reflections* decided to issue this book in full, in accordance with the first manuscript.

The first defeat of the invincible marshal. The director of APN Publishers, A. Pushkov, thus appraised the situation which developed at the time of the publication of *Memories and Reflections.* Now it is known that the book, which immediately became a best seller, had an extraordinary history. The memoirs appeared, but not as Zhukov wished it. Entire chapters, pieces, paragraphs, phrases, and words were stricken out of the original manuscript. At the publishers' I was shown several parts of the original, with portions crossed out with a grease pencil and with notes in the margin: "Be guided by the blue pencil." Nearby, like a heavy sigh, words of the marshal: "This all took place, how can you exclude such important data."

Georgiy Konstantinovich seemingly understood. He was not going to break through such entrenched defenses. He acted like a true commander, sacrificing little to save the main, considering that the loss of separate pieces is not yet the loss of the entire book. But extractions were bloody. It would happen that one crossed-out phrase, only one, would completely change the tone of a chapter, its tonality, its depth.

The readers probably remember one piece of the book. The first months of the war. There is a conference at Stalin's. Zhukov asks a question about initiating counterattacks.

"What counterattacks, what nonsense?"—J.V. Stalin became indignant.

"If you consider that I, as chief of general staff, am capable only of chattering nonsense then I have nothing to do here. I request to be relieved of the responsibilities of chief of general staff and to be sent to the front. Apparently there I shall do more good to the fatherland."

Again a painful pause.

"Calm down" said J.V. Stalin. "And besides...if you put the question that way, we could do without you."

Only one last item, a final sentence, was removed from this passage: "We managed without Lenin, and we can all the better manage without you."

Is the book, which we have before us, true or not? Regardless of cuts and added-on passages (for instance, about Brezhnev and Grechko) A. Pushkov considers that the memoirs are incontrovertibly true. Comparison with the original manuscript proves it. One must not forget that the final variant of "Memories and Reflections" got a signed imprimatur from the marshal. Excisions from the book deal, for instance, with such themes as the repressions against military cadres in 1937-1939, appraisals of Stalin down to some very precious details, when Zhukov polemicizes with the article by Voroshilov about the role of Stalin in the Civil War, in the rout of Denikin. Not without interest are apprasials of military figures, beginning with Marshal Tukhachevskiy. There are rather curious observations by Zhukov about how blindly Stalin trusted information coming from a fascist government. Judge for yourselves. Here are several paragraphs from the original book.

"At the end of May 1941, I and S.K. Timoshenko were urgently called to the Politburo. We expected that, apparently, we would at last get permission to bring the border military districts to the highest degree of combat readiness. How we were amazed when J.V. Stalin told us: 'Ambassador of Germany von Schulenburg came to us with a German government request to permit their conducting a search for graves of soldiers and officers who fell in the first World War in battles with the old Russian Army. To search for graves the Germans created several groups which will report to points in accordance with this border map....'"

Zhukov writes further, that the people's commissar reported to Stalin that recently Germans violated our airspace too often and made flights deep into our territory and of the consequent necessity to shoot down the German airplanes. Stalin countered as follows:

The German ambassador assured us in the name of Hitler that their aviation has very many youths, who are professionally ill-prepared. Young pilots orient themselves badly in the air. Therefore, the ambassador asked us not to pay much attention to their wandering aircraft.

The marshal notes: "We did not agree with this conclusion and continued to prove that the airplanes fly intentionally over our important objects and come down to impermissible heights, clearly, to examine them better."

"Well, in that case,"—Stalin said suddenly—"we must quickly prepare a note on this matter and demand that Hitler terminate the autonomy of the military. I am not convinced that Hitler knows about these flights"—said he in conclusion.

One cannot fail to bring up this piece, torn out of the original manuscript. Stalin is receiving a report, that the German government declared war on us. "Is this not a provocation on the part of German generals?"

S.K. Timoshenko answered: "Germans are bombing our towns in Ukraine, Belorussia, and the Baltics, ground troops began combat on the border. What kind of provocation is this?"

Stalin said: "If it is necessary to organize a provocation, German generals will bomb their own towns." After a brief reflection, continued: "Hitler surely does not know about it. We must urgently get in touch with Berlin...."

Readers also will find much of interest in the new edition on the subject of the buildup of the Soviet Armed Forces, and difficulties at the beginning of the war. Reflecting on that, the marshal wrote:

"Unfortunately, I must note that J.V. Stalin on the eve of and at the beginning of the war underrated the role and significance of the General Staff. However, the General Staff, in the lapidary phrase of B .M. Shaposhnikov, is the 'brains of the Army.' Not one organ in the country is more competent than the General Staff in matters of readiness of the Armed Forces for war. Consequently, with whom, other than the General Staff, should the future commander in chief consult systematically? Yet Stalin took very little interest in the activities of the General Staff. Neither my predecessors nor I had the occasion to brief J.V. Stalin completely and in depth on the state of the country's defenses, our military capabilities and the capabilities of our potential enemy. Stalin only rarely and briefly listened to the people' commissar or chief of the General Staff.

I shall not hide that it seemed to us then that in matters of war and defense J.V. Stalin knew not less, but more than we, thought in greater depth and saw farther. When, however, we had to face the difficulties of war, we understood that our opinion of his exceptional versatility and command-leadership was mistaken."

All these words in the original manuscript were crossed out with the same blue grease pencil. Zhukov's reply on the margins "Leave this in the improved edition" was not paid attention to, much less obeyed. It took 20 years from the day of issuance of the first edition to restore Zhukov's original manuscript in full.

"We thought at first of making the book different," said A. Pushkov. "Combine all excisions into an addendum with detailed explanations for each cut. But then we came to the conclusion that such a form is more suitable for specialists than for a wide circle of readers. Our other alternative was to include all cuts directly in the text with a corresponding distinguishing mark: Italics.

[Alimov] Aleksey Valeryevich, how much will the size of the book increase?

[Pushkov] By more than four printed sheets, that is over 100 typewritten sheets. The first printing will be of 200,000 copies.

[Alimov] Has it been ascertained, whose blue pencil "walked" over the manuscript?

[Pushkov] Many readers were interested. I know that the book of Georgiy Konstantinovich was monitored at the very highest level: The manuscript spread among Politburo members and M.A. Suslov occupied himself with the book directly. Therefore, to ascertain who concretely 'did his bit' does not now appear possible.

[Alimov] How many editions of the book were there over these years?

[Pushkov]The book came out in 1969, since that time we published nine editions with a circulation of almost 7 million copies, more precisely 6,918,000. As before, it does not lie on shelves, it remains a best seller. "Memories and Reflections" has been issued in 12 capitalist and 7 socialist countries.

[Alimov] Do you consider the new edition a sort of rehabilitation of the marshal's book?

[Pushkov] If you wish, yes. At the same time it is another moral rehabilitation of those persons about whom Georgiy Konstantinovich wrote with such warmth. He had a single approach to repressions. He severely condemned all the lawlessness that went on in the 1930's. But a whole chapter about it was excised from the book.

Here is a small part of that chapter.

Soviet people, young and old, did not understand what went on, why arrests became so widespread among our people. Not only party members, but also non-party people looked on the constantly mounting wave of arrests with bewilderment and deep-seated fear. Obviously, nobody could express their bewilderment openly, their disbelief that genuine enemies of the people were being arrested and that those arrested actually took part in some anti- Soviet activity or belonged to a counterrevolutionary organization. Every honest Soviet citizen, going to bed, could not firmly count on not being taken away that night because of some slanderous report."

Memories and Reflections is beginning a new life. Justice, for which Zhukov fought unsuccessfully, has been restored. Let this be for us yet another lesson. A lesson of truth. It is expected that "Memories and Reflections" will appear on store shelves for the 45th anniversary of victory.

Economic

Newspaper Notes 11-Month Railway Performance

904H0076B Moscow GUDOK in Russian
3 Dec 89 p 1

[Article based on the materials of the Administration of Statistics of the Ministry of Railways: "Results of Eleven Months"]

[Text] Only 1 month remains before the 4th year of the 5-year plan draws to a close, and still the situation in railway transportation continues to be tense. In November, it was complicated by the ongoing strikes of coal miners in the Pechora Basin and a new flare-up of ethnic disturbances and strikes in Azerbaijan.

Since the beginning of the year, the arrears of the sector of assorted freight covered by state orders amounted to more than 12 million tons. A considerable lag has been allowed to occur in fuel freight: almost 9 million tons of coal, 7.2 million tons of oil and refinery products; (9.6) million tons of chemical and mineral fertilizer, and 3.4 million tons of timber. Out of 42 kinds of freight of operational assortments, plan fulfillment is being assured for 20 kinds, or 47.6 percent. The plan for the overall amount of outshipment has been underfulfilled by 32.3 million tons, or 0.9 percent.

Against the background of a considerable lag in overall outshipments, the overfulfillment of the plan for hauling construction freight by 21.5 million tons has been ensured, and for potatoes, vegetables, and fruit by 3.5 million tons.

The Baltic, Belorussian, Odessa, Southern, Dnepr, Central Asian, East Siberian, and Baykal-Amur Railroads have succesfully fulfilled the transportation plan of 11 months.

The greatest shortfalls in loading occurred on the Kemerovo Railroad, 6.3 million tonnes; Donetsk Railroad, 5.3 million; Tselina Railroad, 4.6 million; Volga Railroad, 4.2 million; and Northern Railroad, 3.7 million.

State orders for passenger turnover were underfulfilled by 1.4 percent.

The rolling stock is not being used satisfactorily. The average turnaround of a car was 6.5 hours slower; the average weight of a train declined by 13 tons. Assignments with regard to these statistics are not being fulfilled.

All of these shortcomings have influenced the economic situation of the sector unfavorably. Productivity of labor of the employees involved in transportation increased by 0.2 percent compared to the same period of last year. The self-cost of transportation is 3.1 percent higher than planned. A shortfall of 279 million rubles in fulfilling the profit plan is expected.

Ryzhkov Interviewed on Railroad Problems

904H0076A Moscow GUDOK in Russian
3 Dec 89 p 1

[Report on GUDOK interview with Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers N.I. Ryzhkov: "Responses by N.I. Ruzhkov to Questions by GUDOK"; date and place not given]

[Text] On the eve of the All-Union Conference of Railway Employees, the editorial office of GUDOK asked Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers N.I. Ryzhkov to answer a number of questions.

[GUDOK] The railways are rightfully called the key, leading, particularly significant sector of the national economy. It has long been referred to as "the bloodstream and nerve of the economy." How does the government view the role of railway transportation in the economy of the country at present and in the long run?

[Ryzhkov] Railway transportation in our country has been, is, and in the foreseeable future will be the main mode of mass hauling of freight and passengers. This is why the normal operation of all sectors of the national economy hinges on its stable and uninterrupted work to a decisive degree.

At present, the draft Law on Railway Transportation is being developed. It will set forth the status of the sector. Incidentally, the draft law points out quite justifiably that the enterprises of railway transportation must be the property of the entire union. This emphasizes their particular role and significance in the economy of our country.

The readers of your newspaper know better than anyone else that the railroads are operating with much strain at present. Nonetheless, the government has been receiving a continuous stream of complaints about disruptions in the delivery of raw and other materials, subcontracted parts, and the failure to furnish cars for shipping products. Justified criticism of the standard of services to passengers at the terminals and on trains has been picking up too.

Of course, there are both subjective reasons, depending on the railway workers themselves, and objective reasons for shortcomings in their work. Problems which have been accumulating for decades in the economy of the country have left a mark on the operations of railway transportation and the development of its material and technical facilities. The government is well aware that many railroads do not have the necessary spare traffic capacity and throughput, and that there is an acute shortage of the rolling stock, equipment which makes the work of people easier, up-to-date electronic and computer devices necessary for automating manangement, and so on.

With this in view, the USSR Council of Ministers has been trying to render the maximum assistance possible to railway employees in accomplishing urgent tasks. We have also been thinking about the long term. The development of the draft Program of USSR Railways Modernization and Reconstruction in 1991 Through 2000 is coming to an end. It is planned to consider it very soon at a meeting of the Presidium.

However, the railway workers should do much, very much, themselves to improve operations. The readers of your newspaper, being professionals, know well what exactly it is in the sense of specific endeavors. For my part, I only will stress the need for a complete guarantee of the safety of train traffic and strict compliance with technological and labor discipline. I think that this is exactly the guarantee of stable and rhythmic operations of the railways of our country.

[GUDOK] Recently, emergency situations in car unloading at the stations and on the spur lines of industrial enterprises have occurred frequently. These cars carry products, including imported goods, which the population misses so badly and the enterprises expect so anxiously. Which measures have been taken in order to solve this most acute problem?

[Ryzhkov] I share your concern completely. Indeed, there is and can be no excuse for the situation which emerged in September and October when up to 28,000 or 30,000 cars not unloaded within the time period established accumulated at the stations. This hindered greatly the transportation of vegetables and potatoes of the new crop, fuel and ore and metal raw materials needed to stock up for the winter, as well as timber and many other kinds of freight.

We had to pull rank and remind a number of leaders about their personal responsibility for neglecting this important endeavor. The USSR Council of Ministers obligated ministries and departments, councils of ministers of union republics, kray and oblast executive committees, and Moscow and Leningrad city Executive Committees to immediately organize around-the-clock unloading of cars and to ensure the continuous acceptance and shipment of freight out of the stations. For example, Deputy Chairmen of the Moscow City Executive Committee Comrades Belyakov and Zharov were put on notice on account of the extremely unsatisfactory organization of unloading of cars with consumer goods. Leaders of the Moscow City Executive Soviet were warned about their personal responsibility for putting the deliveries of goods to the populace within the shortest time possible.

The USSR Committee of People's Control, union ministries and departments dispatched special groups of ranking functionaries to the field to verify the progress of car unloading and the shipment of freight out of the stations. I cannot fail to note the principled position the leadership of the Ministry of Railways took on this issue and its justified exactingness.

All of this made it possible to improve the situation substantially. The USSR Minmorflot [Ministry of the Maritime Fleet] and MPS [Ministry of Railways] developed a clear-cut timetable for the shipping of consumer goods out of sea ports and border crossings in keeping with the assignment of the government. Its execution was strictly monitored. As a result, the situation in this segment of transportation work was perceptibly defused as well.

Personnel changes also had to be made. The USSR Council of Ministers recalled Chief of the Volga Railroad Comrade Chebotarev from his post for unsatisfactory leadership and consistent failure to fulfill the plan of freight transportation. Deputy Minister of Railways Comrade Sidenko was reprimanded. All of these are, so to say, administrative measures. Apparently, we cannot do without them at present in an emergency situation, when it is necessary to set things right very quickly. However, we believe that this is no panacea to take care of all troubles. The very fact of a decline in fulfillment discipline indicates that at the current stage of economic development administrative methods as a principle of managing the economy no longer work. This is why in this case as well measures are being worked out for exercising economic influence over those to blame for the idling of cars. The USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for the Economic Reform was instructed to consider together with the organizations interested the issue of increasing the fines for above-the-norm idle time of cars and containers during the coming winter. Resolutions of the Council of Ministers on these issues will be issued very soon.

Taking into account this opportunity to reach an extensive audience of railway workers through the newspaper, I would like to stress that the government values highly their selfless labor, which promotes the normalization of the economic situation in the country, and is aware that many troubles of transportation were exacerbated through no fault of theirs; I mean strikes in Moldavia and the railroad blockade in Azerbaijan. It is obvious that the use of transportation as a means of political pressure in interregional or any other kind of conflicts is inadmissible. The economy of the entire country and the social programs called upon to improve the life of Soviet people suffer because of this.

[GUDOK] Our newspaper has written many times about the situation which has emerged in track maintenance where tens of thousands of women are involved in strenuous manual labor. The government has grasped the necessity of resolute measures and has adopted a special resolution providing for the development of enterprises delivering track maintenance equipment and machinery to the railways. How has this resolution been fulfilled? What is actually being undertaken at present in order to overcome, putting it mildly, the atrocious condition of track management?

[Ryzhkov] Pursuant to resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers dated 31 March 1986, "On Measures to Furnish Track Machinery to Railway Transportation" (No 401), the deliveries of track machinery have increased by a factor of more than 2 in recent years. However, it is obvious that this is still not enough to accomplish a fundamental change in railway track management. The USSR Mintyazhmash [Ministry of Heavy, Power, and Transport Machine Building], the USSR Minmetalurgii [Ministry of Metallurgy], the USSR Mintransstroy [Ministry of Transport Construction], and the USSR MPS, together with other organizations involved in producing subcontracted parts for track machinery, must take the most resolute measures to completely fulfill the assignments given in this resolution. The government will verify the progress of its fulfillment.

The draft Program of Technical Retooling and Modernization of USSR Railways, which has been mentioned in our conversation, will specify the volume of production of track machinery which, as the specialists believe, will largely meet the needs of railway transportation. It is important to fulfill what has been planned.

The deliveries of wooden ties for railway transportation have turned into an acute problem. We are concerned about the enterprises of the timber industry failing to fulfill their assignments. With a view to giving an incentive to the labor collectives of this industry to increase the production of wooden ties and bars and increasing their responsibility, these products will be covered by the state order in 1990.

Let me quote several statistics that will definitely be of interest to railway employees. The plan for next year provides for increasing the deliveries of rails to 2.45 million tons, of wooden ties to 22 million pieces, and of bars for switches to 22,000 sets. The needs of railway transportation for rail brackets should be met in full. Measures aimed at augmenting relevant capacities in the 13th 5-Year Plan are envisaged so that transportation will not experience in the future as acute a need for these products as it does now.

[GUDOK] Throughout the world, even non-specialists know that railways cannot operate normally without a 25% to 30% spare throughput capacity. Meanwhile, in our country a majority of most significant lines are 95% to 100% utilized. This brings about disruptions in the rhythm. Even the smallest disruption turns into a violation of the schedule of train traffic and affects more than one region. The development of stations that now restrict the throughput of freight and, in part, of passengers calls for considerable funds. Nevertheless, it is necessary to do this. Is it expected that capital investment for the accelerated development and modernization of railways will be secured?

[Ryzhkov] In the 1991-2000 time period, we envisage a development of traffic capacity and railway throughput that will enable us to eliminate bottlenecks and create the necessary reserves. Of course, considerable funds will be required for this. Where are they to be found? Some of the funds will be generated by the railroads themselves; however, it is obvious that this is not going to be enough. A budgetary allocation is necessary. How can it be generated?

It is known that for a long period of time—40 years by now!—tariffs for freight and, until recently, also passenger transportation by the railways virtually have not been increased. As a result, the profit margin of this mode of transportation has been dropping continuously. The USSR Council of Ministers is planning to increase tariffs for freight transportation beginning in 1990. This will enable us to secure additional funds which can be allocated for the development of railway transportation.

[GUDOK] When meeting with the railway leaders you have sharply criticized them for serious shortcomings in passenger transportation. Of course, there are many scandalous things in this important work. However, it might be difficult to demand that, say, conductors provide exemplary service to passengers in cars whose service life has long been over. What steps are envisaged to be taken for increasing the deliveries of passenger cars?

[Ryzhkov] It is definitely necessary to speed up the renewal of the stock of passenger cars. To this end, it is envisaged to increase their production at the Kalinin Production Association of Car Building. By 1995, the association must produce over 1,900 passenger cars annually, which is 1.5 times more than this year. However, one plant in a country that big is certainly very little. This is why the leadership of the MPS is right in changing the production line of the Nizhneudinsk Plant under construction for the manufacture of passenger cars. Efforts should be made to speed up its completion and establish strong production-sharing links with the USSR Mintyazhmash.

In addition, substantial deliveries of passenger cars from the GDR are envisaged in the 13th 5-Year Plan in keeping with the long-range cooperation program. Negotiations with other countries on opportunities for delivering the cars to Soviet railways are under way.

Still, the issue of fully meeting the needs of railway transportation for passenger cars apparently will not be resolved successfully as fast as we would like. This is why the railway workers have to improve the repairs and maintenance of cars, use them more rationally, and, along with the passengers, treat them with care. However, in all cases, no matter what the rolling stock is, it is necesary to show purely human courtesy to the passengers. After all, this is the most important professional responsibility of those who come in touch with dozens and hundreds of our citizens every day in the line of duty and meet their urgent needs.

[GUDOK] Many of the most acute social problems have accumulated in railway transportation. What is the government program for improving the conditions of work and life of railway employees?

[Ryzhkov] You are well aware that at present the social sphere has become a priority sector in the development of the national economy. Of course, this applies to railway transportation as well. A couple days ago, I signed a document together with AUCCTU [All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions] Chairman Comrade Shalayev which envisages a number of measures aimed at improving social conditions of work on the railways and subways. This is the resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU dated 18 November 1989. It provides for increasing bonuses for work on evening and night shifts beginning in the 4th quarter of this year. The funds necessary to fully staff the positions for employees directly associated with ensuring the safety of train traffic and services to passengers are allocated. Some other urgent economic and social issues are also resolved.

It is envisaged to allocate about R850 million next year for funding these measures. The railroads and subways have been authorized to allocate in the 4th quarter of this year up to R100 million for such uses from all economic incentives funds.

Capital investment in housing construction is going up. It is planned to commission residential buildings for railway workers with a total floor space of about 2.3 million square meters in 1990, or 1.4 times more than was envisaged by the 5-year plan for that year. In the next 5-year plan, railway workers will receive 70,000 apartments a year. Many more pre-school facilities for children, hospitals, polyclinics, schools, and communal facilities will be built.

The government is aware of the difficult conditions under which railway employees work and highly values their responsible attitude toward the business. We are trying to do the most possible to make their labor easier and create better conditions for life and the everyday round. However, we also ask people to appreciate that, unfortunately, our opportunities are limited at present—a condition linked to the overall difficult financial and economic situation in the country. The implementation of radical decisions on the restructuring of the economic mechanism has now begun. We are convinced that they will serve to create conditions for improving the standard of living of the entire people. Certainly, those who work most vigorously, productively, and efficiently will be the first to reap the fruit of the radical changes because economic management methods are now coming to the fore. I hope that railway employees are going to be among them.

Minister Konarev Reports on State of Railways

904H0080A Moscow GUDOK in Russian
8 Dec pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "The Report of Minister of Railways N.S. Konarev"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The main result of this meeting, the minister emphasized, should be the further mobilization of the railroads for maximum use of available reserves for handling freight and a considerable improvement in the social position of workers in the sector.

Analyzing work results for the years of the 5-year plan that has now elapsed, the speaker drew attention to the fact that the losses we have sustained in 1989 greatly reduced the efficiency of the first 3 years. For during this period the country's railroads overfulfilled all main indicators. Each collective and each worker in the sector from the direct executor—the engineer and yardmaster, inspector and dispatcher, the track worker and signalman, the expert in the repair of technical facilities and the worker on the underground railroad—to managers at all levels on the railroads have made their own specific contribution to the common cause.

The significant improvement in the sector's financial situation also pleased us. During the first 3 years more than R1 billion of above-plan profit were made. This made it possible to form larger economic incentive funds, provide funding for a large volume of capital construction work, first and foremost a growing volume of housing construction, and repay virtually all debts outstanding to the Ministry of Finance and USSR State Bank [Gosbank].

Notable shifts took place in the resolution of social problems. It is common knowledge that through a number of 5-year plans transport was allocated very limited capital investments for housing construction and projects in the social sphere. Because of this, within the sector a mass of problems had built up. Practical steps toward building up the volumes of housing construction were taken at the end of the last 5-year plan and construction increased substantially in the present 5-year plan.

Whereas during the 10th 5-Year Plan the average annual amount of housing commissioned was 30,000 apartments, and during the 11th 5-Year Plan it was up to 32,000, during the period 1986-1988 it reached 42,000.

There was a significant increase in the volume of construction of other projects: children's preschool establishments with 4,500 places, general education schools with 3,500 places, and almost double for hospitals and polyclinics.

The material condition of life for railroad workers deserves special attention. Let me remind you that the last time the wages for railroad workers were increased was 1971. During that period, railroad transport lagged significantly in terms of average wages, and by the start of the 12th 5-Year Plan, it was listed 23 among the 33 main production sectors of the national economy. The average annual wage increase was only four or five rubles. As a result, the difficulties in finding personnel for the mass occupations were becoming worse.

A real solution had to be found to this situation, and this was the experience of the Belorussian railroad workers, which was based on carrying out measures to ensure a significant increase in labor productivity by introducing the achievements of scientific and technical progress, better organizing production, and strengthening order and discipline. This made it possible to carry out the same volume of work or more with fewer people. Most of the assets saved remained at the disposal of the collective and was used to increase wages.

Thanks to the use of this economic lever it became possible, without using funding from the state budget, to ensure wage increases as follows: for engineers R64, yardmasters R43, for dispatchers R57, for track maintenance workers R48. Other workers also received substantial increases.

Could we count on any kind of state subsidy given the serious financial situation in the country? Of course not.

The positive aspects of introducing the method of the Belorussian railroad workers, the minister said, give me justification for saying that in the future too we must make extensive use of its principles not only to intensify the basic production processes but also for the accelerated introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress and up-to-date technologies.

In this connection, great prospects are being opened up for the introduction of automated systems and robot systems in all spheres of activity in railroad transport, the computerization of workplaces, and the development of improved information facilities, of which we are now experiencing a very acute shortage. The "Ekspress-2" automated system for the sale of passenger tickets—brainchild of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Railroad Transport [VNIIZhT]—which has given an excellent account of itself, is a good example of work in this direction.

Other large-scale measures were implemented in those 3 years to introduce intensive technologies, realize scientific and technical programs, strengthen the material-technical base of transport, and improve organizational structures and management to solve the tasks of the 12th 5-Year Plan.

The introduction of network programs to increase the average weight of a train and static loading of cars turned out to be very effective. It is common knowledge that thanks to this alone we succeeded in increasing the amount of freight handled by 576 million tons without increasing the inventory of cars.

Thus, the first 3 years of the 5-year plan signified an upswing in the railroad operations and precise fulfillment of the tasks set by the main directions for the development of the country's national economy, and a greater sense of responsibility among an absolute majority of railroad workers for the success of perestroyka.

Then came 1989. On the eve of the new year, in December, a dreadful earthquake shook Armenia, causing colossal destruction. Enormous flows of freight not envisaged by the plan were sent to the disaster area. In practical terms this diverted about 5% of operating Ministry of Railways cars. Serious difficulties with the movement of rolling stock arose on the approaches to the Transcaucasus. A great deal of time was needed to stabilize the movement of trains in that region, and despite the enormous losses of loading resources we still managed to fulfill the freight plan for the first quarter and the first half of the year.

Overall, however, this year has been unfavorable. The account reports for 1989 show that the total losses for the Ministry of Railways as a result of the interregional conflicts and strikes is R0.5 billion. Moreover, each day for the country as a whole trains with material values worth about R800 million are not included in economic turnover because they remain without locomotives. We must, N.S. Konarev concluded, decisively condemn all actions, no matter from what quarter they may emanate, to destabilize the operations of the railroads and of other transport enterprises and demand that those who are guilty of this be strictly punished.

The speaker went on to say that harsh criticism has been directed at those collectives on the railroads, plants, underground railroad systems, stations, depots and other transport enterprises that without any justification have lowered the work rate in 1989, whose economic and qualitative indicators have deteriorated, and that are permitting many unproductive losses. They include the Volga, Azerbaijan, Transcaucasus, Moldavia, Oktyabrskiy, Tselinnyy, Alma-Ata, Sverdlovsk, South Ural, Transbaykal, Far East and some other railroad lines. They also include a number of plants in the sector, first and foremost the Lyublinskiy and Ulan-Ude plants, the Leningrad Electrotechnical Plant, and the Astrakhan, Voronezh, Tashkent, Yaroslavl, Barnaul, Ordzhonikidze, Tambov, and Popasnyanskiy plants.

Overall, 1989 must be considered a year of major defeats for us. The plan for freight shipments will be underfulfilled by 22 million tons, and compared with 1988 it will fall 90 million tons. The balance sheet profit for all kinds of activity will be underfulfilled by R300 million, prime cost for shipments will rise 3.3%, and labor productivity growth will be only 0.2%.

It goes without saying that the same thing cannot be allowed in 1990. During the last year of the 5-year plan we must set the task of making up on a mandatory basis for all freight not shipped in 1989, the minister emphasized, and he expressed his confidence that we do have every opportunity not only to fulfill but also to overfulfill the 5-year plan for most indicators.

And what is needed to do this?

First and foremost, more attention must be paid to the railroad worker—the main creative force in the sector—and to his needs, interests, and demands. More housing and social and cultural projects must be built, foodstuffs and essential goods must be better supplied, and incentives must be increased, and a person's interest, so that he works better for final results, will be more conscientious and responsive to this, and support any initiative aimed at the interests of the matter. It must be recognized that in all these matters we are in the debt of our work comrades.

It is essential everywhere to increase responsibility for fulfillment of plans for freight shipments and production in general. Car turnaround time must be improved 5% to 7%, the productiveness of locomotives and cars increased 5% to 10%, the number of empty cars in all operations reduced, the average weight of trains increased at least 100 tons and static loading a minimum of 400 to 500 kilograms, and the level of schedule compliance for the movement of freight trains improved 10% to 12%. There must be a radical restructuring of labor organization for locomotive brigades, and violations of normal conditions for their work must be eradicated. A radical change must be achieved in the quality of passenger movements. Labor discipline must be improved, guaranteeing the "holy of holies" on the railroads—namely, traffic safety.

The times demand that more active use be made of the economic levers of the new management mechanism in the activity of the sector, eliminating present distortions in this important matter, and that a further search be made for possibilities in the centralized management system for railroad transport, combined with a rising level of independence for the enterprises, and that those possibilities be realized.

The speaker dealt in detail with problems in social development.

At this time more than 440,000 workers in railroad transport need better housing conditions. The task of completely satisfying needs for children's preschool establishments still has not been accomplished. About 25% of children have to study at school in a second shift. There is a shortage of hospital beds, and polyclinics and outpatient facilities are operating with enormous work loads. Many premises where social establishments are located are old and ill suited to their purpose.

There are many problems in trade services for railroad workers, and in providing them with foodstuffs and industrial goods. The proportion of heavy manual labor, including by women, is high.

On 27 and 28 July this year at a meeting with representatives of the main occupations in railroad transport, shortcomings were noted in the resolution of social and production issues, and a number of criticisms were directed at the ministry and the trade union central committee, and specific demands made. Those demands have been carefully considered and appropriate steps have been taken regarding them. In matters in which the ministry could not act independently, proposals were submitted to higher organs. The government met us halfway. The state budget for 1990 provides for the allocation of R850 million to satisfy the social needs of railroad workers.

How will those funds be allocated? They are earmarked to pay workers for night and evening shifts employed in the main activities of the railroads and underground system, and to provide for personnel associated directly with insuring traffic safety and providing services for passengers, and also to pay for extra hours of work.

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers has granted permission for additions of 20% of the standard wage rate or salary to be extended to workers on the underground systems in regions of the Urals and Siberia.

In case of sickness with a doctor's certificate, train crews, workers servicing refrigerator cars and a number of others will be paid during the period of absence and the number of rest days will be increased to the number of days of sickness.

Simultaneously the ministry has adopted decisions that improve everyday life for railroad workers, including one-time gratis and reduced-rate tickets for workers in the sector who retire on pension, free food tickets, free delivery of fuel for workers and employees, and removal of the limits on fuel. A provision also has been made for the delivery of fuel ordered in advance. Locomotive crews cannot work more than two consecutive mights. The rights of enterprise managers have been extended with respect to providing materials and assistance, first and foremost for low-income and large families.

Some questions are of a general nature for all sectors of the national economy and will be resolved at the national level. They include first and foremost matters relating to pension provisions, increasing vacation time and so forth. The Ministry of Railways has submitted its proposals on these issues to the USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR Council of Ministers so that provision can be made in laws for the necessary privileges for workers in railroad transport and underground railroad systems.

It should be remembered that in accordance with the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), each labor collective itself has a right as it accumulates the economic incentive fund, to establish additional time off for its workers over and above the times set by the government, including women with young children aged up to 3 years. Maximum use should be made of this opportunity.

On the subject of housing construction.

During the first 4 years of the 5-year plan about 160,000 railroad workers received new, well-built apartments or improved their living conditions. Next year the plan for the economic and social development of the sector provides for the construction and commissioning of 2,423,000 square meters of housing using state capital investments allocated to enterprise funds. This is about 55,000 or 56,000 apartments. In addition, 113,000 square meters of housing will be built with the help of the housing and construction cooperatives and 43,000 square meters using individual construction. This means that another 4,500 families will move into new apartments.

Within the sector a program has been devised for the development of housing construction through the year 2000. It envisages an increase by a factor of 1.5 during the 13th 5-Year Plan compared with the 12th 5-Year Plan. This will make it possible to commission at least 70,000 apartments each year, and during the 14th 5-Year Plan the figure will be at least 80,000.

The railroad companies should ensure significant growth in housing construction (up to 700,000 to 800,000 square meters) through the economic method. This is quite realistic. Already today production line enterprises are building more than 400,000 square meters of housing each year. Collectives of the railroad and the locomotive depots at the Kartaly and Kurgan stations on the South Ural Railroad, Esil station on the Tselinnyy Railroad, Tayga station on the Kemerovo Railroad, and many others are actively engaged in this kind of construction.

One specific form for implementing the housing program is the development of youth housing complexes. In 1988 a total of 17 youth housing complexes totaling 27,000 square meters of housing were commissioned on the railroad network on the basis of the highway and construction trusts. This year, the commissioning of another 32,000 square meters is planned. The youth housing complexes are working well on the Transbaykal, Kemerovo, and West Siberian railroads. It is essential to support the initiative of young people in every possible way and to organize youth housing complexes at each major junction.

Shops and plants can be set up on particular railroads to fabricate bricks, wall units, reinforced concrete structures and other construction materials. We have many fine examples of the development of our own construction industry.

Providing railroad workers and their families with foodstuffs is a very important task. Special attention will be paid to this problem during this present complicated stage through which the country is passing.

Two aspects should be borne in mind in resolving this problem:

—First, there are the measures to improve the activity of the entire system of worker supplies in railroad transport, the renewal and retooling of the trade network and the production base for the workers' supply departments, and the introduction of advanced, up-to-date service forms.

—Second, there is improvement in the quality and range of food in dining halls, reducing the cost of meals, and establishing everywhere convenient schedules for the operation of dining halls and stores.

But the main issue is providing enough food for people.

Over the past 2 years the number of private subsidiary plots in railroad transport has increased by 200 units. But this is little enough since it has made it possible to provide only 5 kg of meat and the same amount of milk for each worker in the sector. In 1990 we must double these indicators. The target will be met if we buckle down to it. At present 60% of enterprises do not have any kind of private subsidiary plot. At the same time many are performing miracles.

In the matter of developing private subsidiary farming and increasing the output of produce we need the desire to do it, not compulsion.

As before the creation of safe and healthy working conditions, improvements in the work and leisure conditions for workers in the mass occupations, and providing them with special clothing and personal safety equipment remain an important part of the social sphere.

Improving working and everyday conditions for women, who make up 46% of those working on the railroads, deserves special attention. The Ministry of Railways collegium and trade union central committee recently adopted a comprehensive program on this problem. The program provides for a significant reduction in the number of workplaces with adverse working conditions, a reduction in the number of women employed in heavy physical labor in track and car enterprises and plants, and the removal of women from night shifts. The attention of managers at all levels, and of scientists and specialists in the sector must be focused on resolving this very important social problem.

The minister drew particular attention to a conference on problems connected with expanding production volumes for consumer goods and the provision of user-fee services.

A number of Ministry of Railways enterprises, mainly plants, are making very essential goods. They are producing about 1,000 items, including goods in short supply. However, the opportunities available to the enterprises, particularly the railroad subdivisions, are by no means being fully realized. While having at their disposal 60% of the machine tool inventory, the railroads (by which we mean the locomotive and car depots and the remote signaling facilities) are producing only 10% of the total volume of consumer goods produced by the sector.

The speaker gave a great deal of attention to ecological problems in railroad transport.

He went on to note ways to satisfy fully, promptly, and in a qualitative manner the needs of the national economy and the public for transport.

Given the present volumes of work, the creation of a stable financial position for the sector is possible only by improving the quality and efficiency of transport, first and foremost by improving the transport process and introducing progressive technologies.

Already in 1990 we must achieve the reliable operation of automated systems for operational control of transport on all railroad lines. On this basis a data base for the Ministry of Railways administration for the main automated dispatcher center should be brought fully into use, and efficient operational interaction should be set up for railroad operations on key rail routes on the basis of a coordinated dispatcher command center. Tasks concerning optimal operational regulation of shipment resources at the network and line levels and tasks involving improvements in the utilization of locomotives and the work of locomotive brigades, and cooperation with those shipping and receiving freight should be dealt with.

One special concern is the automation of key production process at stations and on sections and routes, and the use of robots for repairs and for loading and unloading operations.

A good example is being set by the collective of the Northern Railroad, where comprehensive, intensive technologies has been developed and introduced for shipments, aimed at insuring the steady output of car flows, the smooth buildup of output and carrying capacities, and accelerating the transport process. As a result, car turnaround time has been reduced 5 hours and better use is made of locomotives. Labor productivity since the start of the 5-year plan has improved 20%. This leading experience must be spread to all railroads.

The minister set the target of increasing the average weight of a train to a minimum of 3,650 tons by 1995. This kind of reserve is available, and there is no alternative under the conditions of increased shipments and the limited nature of material resources to develop the network. Increasing static loading of cars will also provide major savings.

Efficient use of rolling stock and other technical facilities should be insured through the entire cycle of transport work, from loading to unloading.

In accelerating car movement a most important role belongs to the marshaling yards. In recent years more attention has been paid to improving their technical equipment. But the position here is still unsatisfactory. Whereas in Lyublino cars are turned round in 4.3 hours, in Yudine it takes 13.4 hours, and at the Astrakhan-2 and Ussuriysk-2 yards it takes 16 to 17 hours. It is high time that the managers of the sections and lines reviewed the organization of marshaling work to achieve the level of the leading collectives. Today it it realistic to talk about sorting six or seven trains in an hour.

Intensification in the process of current holding and repairs to technical equipment is of priority importance in improving the quality of operations. Given the great problems in track work, through well-considered technology and the mobilization of internal reserves and the organization of labor, individual collectives are maintaining track in proper condition and reducing warnings about speed and movement restrictions. This applies to collectives working on track lengths on the Belorussian, Moscow, South, South Ural, and a number of other lines. Nevertheless, the position in track maintenance is complicated. Each day about 6,000 speed restrictions notices are in effect. And half of them are because track is not being repaired promptly.

The speaker went on to say that much has been done recently to enhance the prestige of difficult track work and create real opportunities to increase the wages of track workers through switching the work to the brigade contract.

Workers in the locomotive department face major tasks in guaranteeing the operational reliability of traction equipment. For this it is necessary to observe undeviatingly the planned system for technical maintenance and repair of locomotives and motor cars, employing mechanization extensively. Through such measures the collectives at the locomotive depots in Kurgan, Dema, Moskovka, Nizhneudinsk, Grebenka, Alma-Ata, and a number of other places have increased the volume of repairs by a factor of 2 to 2.5 using the same production areas. There must also be further improvements in the repair system, making use of up-to-date diagnostic facilities based on computers and microprocessors and the use of robots in repair processes.

The locomotive engineers, who are rightly considered the leading professionals in transport, have a special role in stable and safe operations. Concern for locomotive brigades should be at the focus of attention. And here much has been done. Unfortunately, however, the situation remains unfavorable at a number of railroad lines with the organization of their labor and leisure. And on the Azerbaijan, Transbaykal, North Caucasus, Moldavian, Sverdlovsk, and Baltic lines the number of violations of the regime in the work of locomotive brigades has risen significantly. Decisive steps are needed, primarily of an economic nature, to bring proper order in this matter.

Today, through the introduction of intensive technologies and means of mechanization, the car examiners should be able to make repairs on up to a million cars each year and achieve a 15-percent to 20-percent improvement in labor productivity. This limit can be reached only through switching to industrial methods for repairs. This kind of experience has been gained at depots in Krasnoarmeysk, Yasinovataya, Grebenka, the Nizhnedneprovsk Junction, and Bryansk.

Another no less important task is the switch to a progressive system for work at car technical maintenance centers. Here, the means of mechanization and the working brigades are concentrated on routes that are specialized for large repair cars. This kind of technology substantially reduces the time taken to handle rolling stock in dispatch areas. Insuring the safekeeping of cars should become one of the most important tasks for each railroad worker.

The enterprises of industrial railroad transport should be making a significant contribution in resolving the problems of freight movements. To this end we must concentrate material, labor, and financial resources on the most important sectors and introduce comprehensive transport services from the industrial enterprises on a large scale.

Much attention in the report was given over to passenger movements. At the initiative of specialists on the Moscow line, longer passenger trains are being used increasingly. The experience of the Moscow people has been encouraged on many main lines, and this year 206 trains have 20 to 30 cars. Much remains to be done to increase traffic speeds. We cannot reconcile ourselves to a situation in which one train in seven arrives late at its destination, while on the longer routes 1 in 14 is late. The poor quality of services for passengers remains a sore point. Although even here we do have the positive experience of, for example, the "Moldova" train brigade and the collectives at station buildings at the Chelyabinsk and Chernovtsy stations.

We must accelerate work to mechanize and automate ticket offices and other production operations in passenger services. During the 13th 5-Year Plan we must bring fully on line 16 regional automated management systems for ticket sales and reservations on "Ekspress-2" trains, and automate baggage and cashier operations and the preparation of travel documents for international routes.

Talking about the prospects for passenger lines, the speaker emphasized the importance of laying a high-speed Leningrad-Center-South line to handle the increasing traffic, and of developing a qualitatively new level of services on our routes. This problem has been given priority by the government and included in a number of state scientific and technical programs since ecological clean transport operating at speeds up to 350 kilometers per hour with a high level of safety and comfort is under development.

The Ministry of Railways has submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers a request to resolve the question of providing financial and material resources for this program.

It is essential to be more active in introducing intensive technological processes in the management of underground rail systems, including maintenance and repairs of rolling stock and improving the reliability of this form of transport. Next year will be crucial for we must commission 53 kilometers of new track in 10 cities in the country.

From January next year individual republics, in particular the Belorussian SSR, will be switching to regional cost accounting. Because of this, the speaker stressed, city or regional funding must be provided for the operational activity of the underground rail systems.

But this in no way relieves the Main Administration for Underground Rail Systems of responsibility in questions of improving prices, standardizing travel documents, organizing economical operations, and reducing labor, material, and fuel-and-energy resources. Special attention should be paid to the introduction of up-to-date technical facilities and progressive technologies, modernization of rolling stock, escalators and other devices, and reconstruction of existing lines and the commissioning of new ones.

The problem of insuring accident-free operations in railroad transport remains acute. In past years a well-oiled system was set up to handle the process of insuring safe traffic movement, and this is constantly being improved. And where a responsible attitude is shown toward this matter and where there are no violations, there are neither accidents nor waste in work. And where there is more talk than action, things are unfavorable. Thus, 60% of the wrecks and half of all accidents occur on the Baltic, Oktyabrskiy, South West, Transcaucasus, and North Kazakhstan railroads.

The worst situation is in the track department. We are not pleased with the situation in freight movements, or in the locomotive and car departments. The situation has deteriorated on rail crossings because of violations of the rules of the highway by the drivers of highway transport. It is essential persistently to introduce devices and instruments that improve traffic safety. Only a comprehensive approach to the resolution of this problem can produce positive results.

The speaker then went on to deal with the work of rolling stock repair enterprises and the producers of spare parts. He noted that the ministry has raised the cost for capital repairs to freight and passenger cars, reckoning to gain efficiency at the plants, and he emphasized that during the first 11 months of this year the railroads had a shortfall of more than 2,500 freight cars.

It is essential to realize the retooling and modernization program to ensure stable operations in transport and handle the growing volumes of traffic. The problem is where to find the money to implement this program, because R150 billion will be needed over the next decade.

It has been calculated in the Ministry of Railways that if rates for freight shipments, which have not been raised since 1919 and are today obviously unprofitable, are increased 90%, and costs for passengers 40%, then this will generate about R125 billion. Then only R25 billion would be required from the state budget. If we do not carry out this modernization program now we shall be making a big mistake.

In connection with the reorientation of the economy on accelerated social development there have been sharp reductions in budget allocations for production construction. The Ministry of Railways has been forced to halt work on a number of projects and mothball them. As a result of the work that preceded the confirmation of the 1990 plan, the Council of Ministers decided to restore 11 of the 33 construction projects earmarked for mothballing that are particularly important and are at a high level of readiness. The budget provides for R434 million for this. The task for the main construction clients and for railroad collectives is to organize things so that not a single ruble of the funding allocated is wasted and to ensure that they are all used.

The day before the meeting the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium reviewed questions connected with bringing the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad Line [BAM] into permanent operation, and its further use. A high assessment was made of railroad workers, the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League [Komsomol], and all who took part in the building of the line. N.I. Ryzhkov also thanked the railroad construction workers.

The BAM is a line 4,331 kilometers long. On behalf of all railroad workers the speaker thanked the transport construction workers, railroad troops and scientists, and the Leninist Komsomol, which sent its best people and the best youth detachments there.

An important place in the report was given over to improvements in economic management methods.

Railroad transport has been operating under the conditions of full cost accounting and self-financing for almost 2 years. During that time the positive and negative aspects of the economic mechanism and questions that must be resolved have been identified quite clearly.

The activity of railroad transport has significant special features compared with other sectors of the national economy, and they are not fully circumscribed by the framework of the economic reform. The special features of transport were not considered during the transfer of the sector to operation in the new way, and principles that work for industry were translated almost without change, and this was a mistake.

What is the main defect in the present economic mechanism? It is that the cost-accounting interests of the sector and of the state are at odds. The mechanism induces the generation of as much profit as possible, and in transport the main source for this is traffic movements. But increasing the volume of traffic movements leads to increased transport costs for the national economy. No one has yet provided an answer for how to resolve this contradiction, including academy science.

Under the new management conditions the final results of operations in railroad transport have been subjected to the adverse effects of a number of external factors. Any situation—strikes, national conflicts, deterioration in the work of particular industrial enterprises, complications in the ecological situation in a number of regions in the country and so forth—can lead to a reduced traffic volume and reduced incomes for the railroads, even though the immediate blame for this does not lie with the railroad workers. Economic levers in railroad transport should ensure work efficiency for it in any situation and, of course, fulfillment of the main task—namely, satisfying the transport needs of society.

Within the sector its own, special economic mechanism should operate. And this must be reflected in the new law on the socialist enterprise and other legislative enactments on matters relating to the economic reform.

One of the main directions of the economic reform in transport should be improving internal all-union mutual relations in the sector with those who use our product, and also with the state and the republics and regions. These mutual relations should be built on the foundation of well-considered tariffs, including contract tariffs, that create the conditions needed for the normal development of transport. With the help of the tariffs priorities should be set for shipment of the most important goods—fuel and energy, foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export and import goods. Under the conditions of cost accounting transport should not carry the losses resulting from the low cost of local commuting by train.

Questions concerning territorial cost accounting should acquire increasing importance and sharpness. We believe that railroad transport enterprises should take part in the formation of both all-union and republic budgets. At the same time, in turn the republics should be involved more broadly and more actively in developing the railroads. At least in the construction of station buildings and underground rail systems.

Railroad transport should also be protected against the monopoly diktat exercised by commodity producers. We are constantly encountering the practice of price increases for rolling stock. Over the past 30 years the cost of output that is delivered to us has doubled while tariffs have remained the same. Here, the increased costs are not compensated by capacities or improvements in other technical-economic features. The cost of a VL8 electric locomotive produced during the period 1957-1967 was R38 per kilowatt of capacity, and now the cost of the VL80r is R64 per kilowatt. The position is the same with cars and other types of locomotives. It is therefore essential that output produced for railroad transport be fully included in state orders and sold at firm prices.

Questions concerning ownership and language are closely associated with the problem of regional cost accounting.

We fully share and support the provision in the USSR "Law on Property in the USSR," according to which railroad transport is all-union property. With regard to the language used on the railroads, our opinion is unambiguous: professional dealings in train and dispatcher communications and at enterprises, organizations, and establishments connected with insuring traffic safety and the provision of services for passengers, and also professional clerical work and reporting and accounting and commercial and technical documentation should be conducted in Russian, which is a national language.

Unfortunately, we already know of cases that have almost led to serious consequences, when railroad workers did not understand each other because they were speaking different languages. Suppose, for example, that Belorussian crews are taking a train from Molodechno to Kaliningrad. What language should be used as they pass through Lithuania? Or, say, crews from Leningrad are going to Tallinn and are obliged to speak Estonian there.

I recall a serious accident in 1950 not far from Batumi. At that time I worked on the state commission. Why did it occur? The assistant station master could not speak Russian, but the dispatcher was speaking Russian. They did not understand each other, and as a result the train smashed into an electric train. So there should be one language for professional dealings in transport.

Our viewpoint on all matters relating to the normal function of the sector and its legal and economic protection is set forth in the draft "Law on Railroad Transport," drawn up in accordance with the 3 October 1989 USSR Supreme Soviet resolution. True, work has yet to be completed on a review of a number of provisions and articles of the Railroad Charter because of the effect of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association) and introduction of economic management methods. This applies primarily to questions connected with planning for freight shipments and so forth.

The speaker went on to emphasize that existing economic sanctions, that is, fines, that those who dispatch and receive freight pay have no practical effect on reducing car idle time. In order to increase responsibility for delaying cars, the USSR Council of Ministers must accelerate resolution of the question of quintupling the size of present fines for above-normative idle time for cars and containers. Perhaps this will force enterprise managers and labor collectives to pay more attention to efficiency in the use of rolling stock.

From 1 January 1988 railroad transport has been operating according to a structure corresponding to the general scheme for management of the sector. It has shown its viability. It has been possible to find the optimal relationship between management and production personnel. The proportion of the management apparatus is 8.7%, while the average for the national economy is 12% to 14%. If we reduce the management apparatus further we may lose the thread of management.

However, a number of proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Railways on questions concerning the structure of the sector. They all have been carefully studied and analyzed. In many of them it is a question of management departments. We cannot agree with such proposals at this time since the departments carry the main work load in the organization of traffic movements and in work with the labor collectives and local organs. Their role will grow even more under the conditions of regional cost accounting.

When improving structures we must not go the other extreme, when proposals are submitted on splitting up the railroad lines and divisions to fit within krays, oblasts, and republics. They have not succeeded in applying this law across territories, but Lithuania is raising the question of railroad ownership. And R75 million from the budget is being demanded for this. Or even more, since the Baltic railroad line operates smoothly and with a high level of technology. But the planning for all the divisions located inside Estonia or Lithuania is being done separately. In the national interests, by the end of the 13th 5-Year Plan, there will be 23 lines and the number of divisions will have been correspondingly reduced.

Many ideas were expressed in the report on foreign economic activity and material-technical supply, and questions concerning personnel policy were set forth in detail.

Throughout the history of our state, the speaker continued, the railroad workers have labored selflessly. The people always will remember their selfless labor during the years of the national economy's restoration and during the civil war and, particularly, the Great Patriotic War, when they displayed mass heroism.

Everyone knows how difficult this year has been for the country. And we are doubly pleased that 1989 state prizes have been awarded to the chief of the Irkutsk passenger train depot on the East Siberian Railroad, V. Vagin; brigade leader S. Zarembe, of the Krivoy Rog track section on the Dnepr Railroad; A. Mirgorodskiy, diesel locomotive engineer at the Popasnaya depot on the Donetsk Railroad; A. Rogov, yardmaster at the Kombinatskaya station on the West Siberian Railroad; M. Tarasov, a brigade leader at the Moskva-Paveletskaya car depot on the Moscow Railroad; and A. Tikhonova, assistant station master in the Sverdlovsk division of the Sverdlovsk Railroad.

In the responses from Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov to questions from the newspaper GUDOK a high assessment was made of the work of the Soviet railroads. This serves as an incentive for increased creative activity by all workers on the country's railroads. Permit me on your behalf and on behalf of all railroad workers in the country to assure the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government that, displaying a high level of activeness and organization, workers in railroad transport will ensure satisfaction of the demands of the national economy and the public for traffic movements and will make their contribution in resolving the tasks of perestroyka.

Rumors of New Year Car Price Rises Denied

PM2012144189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 6

[V. Tolstov article under the rubric "Rumors and Facts": "Car Prices Again"]

[Text] On 14 December IZVESTIYA published a report from the USSR State Committee on Prices [Goskomtsen] stating that the department was not engaged in any work associated with an increase in car prices as of 1 January next year. Consequently, the rumors that have swept Moscow over the past few days are false.

However, even our article gave rise to different interpretations, and, as a result, customers whose minds had been put at rest are getting worried again. In this connection, IZVESTIYA again appealed to the USSR Goskomtsen, and we received confirmation that no instructions about an increase in car prices starting in the new year have been issued. And without such instructions nobody is entitled to make a decision on a price increase. If people on the waiting list receive any notification about new prices, this will be false.

All of this applies to the specific situation linked with the spreading of rumors and by no means indicates that next year, for instance, the USSR Supreme Soviet will not be able to examine the question of raising car prices. Our parliament's relevant commission has already discussed this possibility in the course of its business. But, as we recall, at a recent Supreme Soviet session deputies rejected a similar proposal to raise the price of cigarettes, beer, and delicatessen products. And if the question of raising car prices, which are already inordinately expensive in this country, is submitted for discussion by the USSR Supreme Soviet, we do not know what decision the deputies will arrive at.

For the moment, one thing is obvious: Neither the USSR Council of Ministers nor its subordinate USSR Goskomtsen are preparing a nasty New Year's surprise for motorists behind the people's back.

Agriculture

Reports on Farming Developments 22 Nov-27 Dec

LD2112035689

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian from 22 November to 20 December, unless indicated otherwise. Times of broadcast, given in GMT, are in parentheses at the end of each item.

22 November-27 December
No fileworthy items monitored.

16 December
Ukrainian farmers have completed their state order sales of grain. Over 17.5 million tonnes of grain have been delivered to procurement points. This includes 1 million tonnes of wheat in excess of the state order. The farms of the Voroshilovgrad, Crimean, Donetsk, and Kherson Oblasts made the biggest contribution to the overall result. (0700)

Field workers of the Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic fulfilled their task for supplying sugar beet seeds to the All-Union Fund. Now in the republic four high-yield varieties of beet are being cultivated. They are designated for different climatic zones. More than 10,000 tonnes of high quality seeds were dispatched to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Russian and Kazakh republics. (1300)

17-27 December
No fileworthy items monitored.

Newspaper Reports on Weather, Crop Conditions

Mid-November

904B0073A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Nov 89 p 2

[Article by O. Pisarenko, agricultural meteorologist: "Weather and Sowing"]

[Text] At the beginning of the 10-day period in a large part of the European territory of the USSR, and for most of the 10-day period in the Severnyy, Volgo-Vyatskiy, Uralskiy, and Povolzhskiy Rayons, the weather was warmer than usual. It got considerably colder 15-18 November in the Baltics, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Central-Chernozem and Northern Caucasus areas and in the south of the Povolzhskiy areas. The minimal temperature in these areas, and also in the northern half of the Povolzhskiy area, fell to minus 7-15 degrees, and in places to the west of the Ukraine, in the Gomel, Penza, Ulyanovsk, and Kuybyshev Oblasts, to minus 16-22 degrees.

Winter grain crops essentially have stopped growing, and toward the end of the 10-day period they were in a state of winter dormancy. In the last days of the 10-day period, a snow cover was formed. Its depth in a large part of the territory of the Volgo-Vyatsk, Central, and Central Chernozem areas, in the west of the Saratov and Penza Oblasts, in the Komi ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic], and in the north of the Ural area was mainly 7-15 centimeters, and in the remaining part of the European territory, it was less than 5 centimeters.

The minimal tillering node temperature of soil of winter grain crops was mainly in the range of from -2 degrees to -5 degrees.

It was warm for most of the 10-day period in the Transcaucasus republics. Winter grain crops grew for almost the entire 10-day period.

The frosts got milder in the agricultural zones of Western Siberia and in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan. The minimum air temperatures in the Tyumen and Omsk Oblasts and in the northwest of Kazakhstan was minus 7-15 degrees, and on the remaining part of the territory it was 16-24 degrees. There was precipitation everywhere. Its amount in a majority of the rayons was 1-10 millimeters, and in a number of rayons of the Novosibirsk and Kemerovo Oblasts and in Altayskiy Kray, it was 11-25 millimeters. The depth of the snow cover increased everywhere, and in a number of rayons of the Novosibirsk, Tomsk, and Kemerovo Oblasts, in the east of Omsk Oblast, and in Altayskiy Kray, it was 8-15 centimeters, in places 20-25 centimeters, in Tyumen Oblast and in the west of Omsk Oblast, it was about 5 centimeters. The minimal tillering node temperature of the soil for winter grain crops increased and was principally minus 5-7 degrees. It dropped to -16 degrees only in some places in Kemerovo Oblast, which was not dangerous for winter rye crops.

The weather was colder than usual in the republics of Central Asia. Winter grains grew for most of the 10-day period.

Early December

904B0073B Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 7 Dec 89 p 3

[Article by O. Pisarenko, agricultural meteorologist: "Weather and Sowing"]

[Text] Cold weather prevails over most of the European territory of the USSR. The average air temperature in Moldavia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, the Baltics, and in the Northwest, Northern, Central, Volgo-Vyatsk, and Chernozem areas was 3-8 degrees lower than the multiyear average. In the remainder of the areas, the weather was variable and was generally close to the multiyear average for the 10-day period.

The winter grain crops were in a dormant condition under snow cover. The depth of the snow in the Baltics, Belorussia, Moldavia, a large part of the Ukraine, the North Caucasus area, the Lower Volga, to the south of the Volgo-Vyatskiy area, and also in places in the Kuybyshev and Ulyanovsk Oblasts and the Tatar ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] was primarily 6-10 centimeters. The minimal tillering node temperature of the soil for winter grains here remained within a range of -1 to -4 degrees, and in places from -6 to -8 degrees. In the Northwestern, Northern, Central, Central Chernozem, and Ural areas, to the north of the Volgo-Vyatsk and Volga area, the depth of the snow cover in fields with winter crops was 11-20 centimeters, and 20-25 centimeters in some places.

In the southern part of the Ukraine, Moldavia, and most of the territory of the North Caucasus area, it got cold at the end of the 10-day period and plant growth stopped. A small snow cover was formed here (less than 5 centimeters). Only in a number of rayons of the Nikolayev, Odessa, and Kherson Oblasts, in the west of the Zaporozhye and Crimean Oblasts, and in the south of Krasnodarskiy Kray was there no snow. Nor were there any heavy frosts. The minimal tillering node temperature of the soil for a winter grain crop kept within the range of from -5 to -7 degrees, but in the Crimea and in Krasnodarskiy Kray it was about zero.

It got warmer during 30 November-1 December in the northwestern half of the European territory of the USSR, and during 3-4 December warm weather prevailed over the remaining part of the European territory of the USSR. Thaws occurred in the Northern, Northwestern, Central, Central-Chernozem areas, and in the Baltics, Belorussia, Moldavia, the Ukraine, and in the Krasnodarskiy and Stavropolskiy Krays. The warm spell here caused compression of the snow and in some places the melting of the snow cover. In the last few days it got colder again.

In the republics of the Transcaucasus, the weather was variable. The middle of the 10-day period was the warmest. The maximum air temperature increased to 10-15 degrees, and on individual days, to 18 degrees. In this period, winter grain crops were growing. At the end of the 10-day period, it got colder, and active growth stopped. Everywhere, including the subtropical areas of Georgia, at the beginning and the end of the 10-day period, light frosts (minus 1-5 degrees, in the subtropical areas of Georgia to -2 degrees, and in the mountainous areas to minus 7-15 degrees) were noted. There was a temporary snow cover in a number of areas.

In the agricultural areas of Western Siberia and in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan, weather prevailed that was warmer than usual. The average air temperature for the 10-day period was 4-9 degrees higher than the multiyear average. Thaws were noted almost everywhere. Winter grain crops in these areas were in a condition of winter dormancy under snow cover.

The weather was warmer than usual in the republics of Central Asia. The maximum air temperature on different days increased up to 17-26 degrees, and to the southwest of Turkmenia, to 28-33 degrees. The passing rains replenished the reserve of productive moisture of the arable layer of soil somewhat. For most of the 10-day period, winter grain crops grew over the entire territory of the republics of Central Asia (except for Kirghizia).

Scientific

Cosmonauts Conduct Experiments Aboard Mir

29 December Activities

LD2912152189 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Flight Control Centre December 29 TASS—Cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov are completing the last working week in the outgoing year aboard the orbital scientific research complex Mir.

In the past two days Viktorenko and Serebrov carried out experiments in space materialogy and biology and attended to maintenance of the equipment aboard the complex. Both had a medical check-up with the use of the pneumo-vacuum "Chibis" suit which imitates gravity.

The flight programme provides for a considerable volume of work in open space, including on the exterior surface of the basic compartment and orbital modules. The first walk in outer space is planned to be held early in January 1990.

The cosmonauts are preparing the necessary equipment. They reactivated their space suits and are checking the functioning of their systems today.

According to the results of the medical check-up, Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov are in good health.

The flight of the manned complex Mir is proceeding normally.

2 January Experiments

LD0201113990 Moscow TASS in English 1131 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Mission Control Centre January 2 TASS—Cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov, who are making a space flight on board the Mir space research complex, continued technological experiments and astrophysical studies today, and prepared the equipment needed for a space walk.

The melt started at the Gallar installation on December 26 is ending. Its purpose was to obtain a semiconductor material with improved characteristics in conditions of microgravitation.

The systematic measurement of the flows of elementary charged high-energy particles in near-Earth space continues with the help of the Maria magnetic spectrometer.

The cosmonauts are continuing experiments designed to further the study of the impact of outer space factors on various materials. Samples of polymer and composite materials, as well as units of radioelectronic equipment, are used in these studies.

According to telemetric information and reports from the orbit, the flight of the Mir space complex is proceeding normally. Both cosmonauts are in good health.

Military

Gromov Defends Soviet Presence in Afghanistan

LD2612143289 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Remarks by Colonel General Boris Gromov, former commanding officer of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, on the USSR's military presence in Afghanistan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Begin Gromov recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] I believe that in any case, aid to Afghanistan was necessary exactly at that time. The point is, what aid and what forms and methods. Maybe the military action should not have been taken, but once we entered the country we had to help the Afghan people. I would like to stress once again that of all the tasks we performed there, about 60 percent were linked with peaceful aims. We dug water wells, built power stations and power transmission lines, other civilian installations, and restored what had been destroyed. [end recording]

Answering another correspondent's question, Col Gen Boris Gromov refused to compare the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan with the United States's military action in Vietnam: The United States was waging war in another hemisphere, away from its border, and no one called it there, whereas the events in Afghanistan were developing close to the Soviet border and our troops were invited there by the country's government, said the general.

[Begin Gromov recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] People often wonder why the Soviet Army entered Afghanistan. Those who wonder should be asked is there an army that refuses to carry out its government's orders? For this reason I believe it is unfair to blame the military for everything that had happened and try 10 years later to doubt the feasibility of the accomplished fact. [end recording]

Akhromeyev Disputes OGONEK Army Statistics

PM2812103489 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Dec 89 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev by unnamed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent following publication of Akhromeyev's open letter in OGONEK: "Discussion of the Problem Is To Continue"; date and place of interview not stated; first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent put some questions to Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev in connection with his open letter, "What Kind of

Armed Forces the Soviet Union Needs," which was published in the magazine OGONEK, and the magazine's reply to the letter.

[Correspondent] What can you say about OGONEK's reply "From the Editorial Office" to your "Open Letter"? Both were published in issue No 50 of the magazine OGONEK and aroused considerable interest among military readers.

[Akhromeyev] I am grateful to OGONEK for publishing my open letter. I mean that sincerely. I believe the problems I raised and the criticism of OGONEK's views on a number of questions of the building of our Armed Forces to be correct. The dispute with the OGONEK editorial collegium is a matter of principle. The journal's publication of my letter unabridged and of the reply "From the Editorial Office" was an honorable decision. I have studied the journal's reply ("From the Editorial Office") to my letter. The tone of the reply, in view of the opposing nature of our positions on the questions under discussion, is polite. I have an agreement with Comrade V.A. Korotich [OGONEK's chief editor] that the debate will continue in approximately February 1990. For now, I consider it necessary only to clarify a few of the quantitative estimates relating to the U.S. Armed Forces cited by OGONEK.

First, the difference in calculating the number of U.S. aircraft carrier task forces. I stated in the letter that there are 15 of them, while the reply "From the Editorial Office" says that there are 14. Perhaps the editorial office had information that in January 1990 the Americans are removing the obsolete aircraft carrier *Coral Sea* from the armory. That is true. But in November 1989 a new nuclear aircraft carrier, *Abraham Lincoln,* joined the fighting strength of the U.S. Navy. So the United States has 15 aircraft carrier task forces, and 16 actual aircraft carriers. As for the Americans' intentions regarding forthcoming reductions in carrier task forces, these are only good intentions, and you know where the road paved with good intentions leads.

Second, the numerical strength of the U.S. Armed Forces. I reaffirm that in 1989 their numerical strength totals 3.3 million men (or to be more precise, 3.289 million). Of these, 2.13 million represent the strength of the regular troops, and 1.159 million the strength of the National Guard ground forces and the organized reserve of the Air Force and Navy. But in the U.S. Armed Forces, that reserve is an entirely different thing from ours. It is permanently in formation, and is even involved in active service and active duty. If a servicemen is discharged, someone else takes his place. This is the strength that should be compared with ours as of 1 December 1989—3.993 million men.

You cannot add to that number "all the Soviet reservists, Ministry of Internal Affairs troops, border forces, and the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy," as the reply "From the Editorial Office" states. The figure of 3.3 million for the Americans does not take such components into account.

In a special issue of the "Association of Reserve Officers Almanac" in 1988, the former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (who retired on 1 October 1989) assessed them as follows: "The National Guard and the reserve have become an organic part of the U.S. Armed Forces. They are capable of carrying out identical tasks to the cadre forces." That is an American view. I do not think it is appropriate to enter into polemics on the other questions raised in the reply "From the Editorial Office." We will study them in February next year.

[Correspondent] However, some other people agree with OGONEK's approach to the estimation of the numerical strength of the U.S. Armed Forces, for instance USSR People's Deputy Academician G.A. Arbatov, who cited approximately the same figures in his speech at the Congress of USSR People's Deputies on 16 December. What can you say about that?

[Akhromeyev] One can only regret it. I do not know where Academician G.A. Arbatov got his figures on the numerical strength of the U.S. Armed Forces to compare them with the strength of the Soviet Army and Navy. These figures are not in accordance with reality if you compare them with the total strength of the USSR Armed Forces. The real figure that should be compared is 3.993 million for the Soviet Union, and 3.289 million for the United States. Troop formations equivalent to the U.S. civil guard and organized reserve are classed among the branches of the armed forces in the Soviet Armed Forces.

Something else surprised me in Academician G.A. Arbatov's 16 December speech at the Congress of USSR People's Deputies. He compares the Soviet Union's real measures to reduce military spending and the Armed Forces with possible similar reductions in the United States in future. That is not a fair comparison. I disagree absolutely with his view that the development of aircraft-carrying ships within our Navy is mistaken. I could justify this, but I do not want to take the bread from the naval seamen's mouths.

Local Hostility Makes Baltic Service Unpopular

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[Article by Lieutenant General O. Zinchenko, member of the Military Council and chief of the Baltic Military District Political Directorate, under the rubric "Aspects of Interethnic Relations": "We Serve in the Baltic"]

[Text] At first it seemed to me like an ordinary family squabble. A husband and wife had fallen out, I thought, and had decided to move into different apartments for a while. That can happen to anyone, can't it?

It was known that Major A. Solovey had been transferred to the Baltic from the Leningrad Military District at his own request. He was happy with army life, it seemed. Superiors gave him good reports. They were examining his promotion prospects. But the officer's family was a different matter. His family apparently could not "acclimatize" in the new location. Particularly his wife. The fault was not with the natural climatic conditions but with the political and moral climate, which people are discussing increasingly often in the Baltic nowadays. Particularly those people who, as the saying goes, do not belong to the indigenous population. Those people, wrenched from their home regions—often not through choice—are most sensitive to the processes taking place here. Picture this scene: A newcomer, wishing no one any ill, finds himself in an environment where strenuous efforts are made to convince him that the so-called migrants have no homeland or roots and that they spread philistinism everywhere. Add to that graffiti daubed on the fence and sometimes even the wall of your apartment block—"Ivan, take your overcoat and go home." What, you wonder, is a man supposed to feel when he has come to this region not through choice and means the local population no harm?

I put the question in those terms because something similar happened to Maj A. Solovey's wife. It ended when she couldn't stand these hitherto unknown daily ordeals any more and went home to her family in Belorussia. And her husband, who wanted to keep the family together, requested a discharge from the Armed Forces....

Regrettable though this is, it has to be said: The Baltic Military District, which until recently was considered prestigious, has now lost its attractiveness. Quite recently, for example, Senior Lieutenant A. Kvachkov, who had transferred to one of our units from the Western Group of Forces, encountered the complex realities of life and requested a discharge. Even those who hail from the Baltic itself prefer to serve in another district.

There seems to be a paradox here: An officer put in a request, he was keen to go home, but when his wish was granted not only wasn't he happy, he was disappointed. And he regrets that he made that choice.

Yes, the development of events recently and interethnic relations in the region have also made their mark on the military serviceman's position in society and his general attitude. When and where was it ever the case that an officer, after service or on a day off, for example, did not want to wear his uniform in public? Now, however, that trend is becoming established in a number of places because people don't want to risk the "compliment" of being called an "occupier."

To what may be called the normal burdens of the officer's nomadic life in a number of places here you can add those which are created artificially. For example, servicemen are refused rented housing and obstacles are created for them over residence permits. But without a permit their children cannot get into kindergartens or creches; members of their families cannot be treated in polyclinics.... I have already had occasion to say, notably from the platform of the recent CPSU Central Committee plenum, that the nationalist separatist forces of the region have directed their attacks against the Army and the troops of the district as a component of that Army. Admittedly, the "occupier" label which the bellicose radicals try so hard to pin on us does not stick well to the Soviet soldier, to the radicals' very great disappointment. The initiators of the slander campaign themselves cannot fail to see that, either.

Native Balts constitute an ever-increasing percentage of the personnel of the district's troops. Does that mean that they are occupiers on their own land? And people of the older generations still remember the real occupiers—the Hitlerite invaders. They remember them and they can make comparisons. Those people, the real occupiers, lived in the better homes and threw their owners out on the street. Those occupiers, wearing the spiderlike swastika, established their laws and customs everywhere and punished every offense with death. Those occupiers robbed and terrorized local inhabitants. In short, they did as they pleased. Every sensible person understands that to equate the Soviet soldier with the occupier is a blasphemy. Even the most belligerent members of the informal groups surely realize the shakiness of their arguments. But still they keep the "occupier" label in their arsenal. Why?

Recently I was acquainted with a "theoretical" work which addressed this topic. It dealt among other things with Latvia's possible future state organization. The question was put like this: What is more important for the republic—to "secure its withdrawal from the USSR" or to "demand that the USSR confer on Latvia the status of an occupied territory"? In the author's opinion, the latter—to achieve "recognition of the status of an occupied territory"—was more important because that event eventually would lead to the possible raising of the question of the "legitimate presence on the republic's territory" of that portion of the republic's inhabitants who have arrived there since the "events of 1940." In simple terms, this was an unambiguous allusion to the fact that a section of the population, with no pang of conscience, could be deported from its territory....

I would not be sinning against the truth if I were to say that the bugbear of occupation and the "theory" of the forcible affiliation of the Baltic republics to the USSR are being exploited quite extensively in different ways and among different sections of the population. For example, the advocates of economic and political sovereignty persistently try to instill the idea that neither sovereignty nor the democratic election of people's deputies is possible while Soviet troops remain on Baltic territory. They strenuously try to din into the environmentalists that the main polluters and destroyers of the natural world are of course the military.

The relevant "theoreticians" are also seriously considering the prevention of young men being drafted into the Army. As the "legal basis" for refusing military service they cite the 1949 Geneva Peace Convention (in Lithuania, for example, an organization called "Geneva-49" has been created for that purpose) or, more accurately, Article 51 of the convention, which says that an occupying power does not have the right to draft the population of the captured territories into its own forces. By arbitrarily classing the USSR as an "occupying power," figures from some of the informal organizations are trying to din into young men the idea that "under international law" they may refuse military service, and they promise them all kinds of support and protection. But of course, the matter does not end with mere verbal encouragement. They are using standard duplicated "statements" of refusal to serve in the "occupation" army, distributing them to draftees and pasting them up on bus stops, at stations, and in other public places.

Is it necessary to state how much all this complicates the work of commanders and political officers with the young generation, necessitating additional efforts on the part of educators, military lawyers, and psychologists? It is true that glasnost, openness, and direct dialogue with our opponents are helping us here. Open-door days, television forums, press conferences, briefings with the participation of the district command and political personnel, an open communications channel which can be used by virtually any citizen in the Baltic republics; this is by no means a full list of the forms and methods of work which we have developed of late, and which are making a valuable contribution. In Lithuania itself, in military commissariats and military units stationed there, there are quite a few officers who are skillfully conducting propaganda among the population of the republic and in labor collectives, based on knowledge and historical facts. One of them, for instance, is Major S. Zhulik, a unit staff propagandist whose words carry prestige and weight among any audience. It is very important today to explain what is concealed behind the talk about "occupation," "demilitarization of the Baltic republics," and "the territorial principle of staffing the Army." After all, it is a sort of tactic whose main aim is to deprive the state of one of its main supports—the Armed Forces—and to eliminate the main obstacle in the way of restoring bourgeois structures, which some of the new political formations are openly seeking.

It goes without saying that the Army cannot and must not live in isolation from society. In speaking about this I cannot omit to mention with satisfaction the following facts of the recent past: The district troops have sold the national economy and cooperatives in the Baltic republics R4.081 million worth of machinery and equipment. This includes various makes of motor vehicles and engineering and communications equipment.

At the same time, it is impossible not to mention something else too. All problems, all the "trouble spots" in society are projected and transmitted also to the military organism. Problems of everyday life, ethnic and other problems, interweaving and forming a tight knot, sometimes lead to a very strange symbiosis and unexpected throwbacks. Take the notorious housing problem, for instance. It is as acute as ever in the district. Suffice it to mention that by 1 August of the current year there were more than 10,000 officer and warrant officer families without an apartment. The district leadership is taking steps to alleviate the problem. Unfortunately, however, not everything depends on us. The reason for the high number of families without apartments is the limited quantity of housing supplied by local soviet construction organizations.

The prevailing situation is causing particular concern because the Lithuanian and Estonian Soviet Socialist Republics have no Council of Ministers resolutions under the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 8 September 1984 resolution on the allocation of housing to the district in 1989. Alarm also is felt about the generally poor social provision for officers, and in some cases even discrimination against them. What can be done about this situation? One way is to influence it is via the local authorities, through the work of servicemen in the soviets. But here, too, we are often coming up against active opposition, which is particularly noticeable now during the election campaign to the local organs of power.

It would be appropriate to mention that this "pressure" became noticeable in a number of places long before the beginning of the election campaign. It became noticeable as soon the the laws on elections began to be discussed and adopted. Many speakers displayed casuistic eloquence in an effort to prove that servicemen allegedly do not need the right to vote, that they have no interest in local problems, that they are "aliens" and temporary residents in the Baltic republics.

I also have to mention ties with local party and soviet organs. Outwardly they have not changed, as it were. But lately I have caught myself thinking more and more often that certain local party and soviet functionaries would like to preserve only the facade of the former mutual relations and collaboration. The city party conference in Kaunas, where local leaders went to great lengths to prevent communist servicemen from taking part, is a case in point. When it became necessary to "abandon" these undemocratic aspirations, every effort was nonetheless made to prevent military delegates from getting onto the party conference's leading organs. Incidentally, this is not really surprising if you consider that certain city (and rayon) party organizations are headed by members of the leadership of the people's fronts or "Sajudis," which make no secret of their negative attitude toward the Soviet Armed Forces.

Maybe some people will think that I am laying it on "too thick," that I am exaggerating the problems and "sore" points. What can I say to this? We have had a lot of practice in doling out the truth in small doses, especially the bitter truth, in watering it down with the sugar water of apparent well-being. If I had wanted to, I could, of course, have written an entirely positive article instead of this one, since there is much that is positive in our life and our work, quite frankly. However, the times have changed. What we need is not triumphal displays. We are all perfectly aware where they have led us. The time of specific actions and decisions has come. First, I believe, it is necessary to make sure that service as an officer is regarded as honorable and prestigious in practice, rather than just being something to which lip service is paid, to make sure that when an officer is appointed to the Red-Banner Baltic Military District, just as to any other district, he regards this as an honor. We must ensure that he can be confident of being received and welcomed as befits him.